

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Ayana Elizabeth Johnson: How to find joy in climate action | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ayana\\_elizabeth\\_johnson\\_how\\_to\\_find\\_joy\\_in\\_climate\\_action](https://www.ted.com/talks/ayana_elizabeth_johnson_how_to_find_joy_in_climate_action)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### **gargantuan**

*adj.* of immense size, volume, or magnitude; gigantic

*synonym*: enormous, colossal, mammoth

(1) **gargantuan** size, (2) **gargantuan** appetite

The construction of the **gargantuan** skyscraper was an engineering marvel.

### **electrify**

*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

*synonym*: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

### **industrious**

*adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

*synonym*: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

### **fathom**

*v.* to understand or comprehend (a difficult or complex problem or situation); to measure the depth of water

*synonym* : comprehend, understand, grasp

(1) **fathom** the depth, (2) **fathom** the mystery

I cannot **fathom** why some people enjoy horror movies.

## terrifying

*adj.* very frightening or intimidating

*synonym* : frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

## 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.

## footprint

*n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

*synonym* : footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

## superpower

*n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

*synonym* : great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

## compost

*n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil

*synonym* : fertilizer, humus, manure

(1) organic **compost**, (2) **compost** pile

You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your **compost** to improve the pH balance.

## 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.

## burnout

n. the state of being exceedingly exhausted or unwell, either physically or mentally, as a result of overworking

*synonym*: breakdown, exhaustion, fatigue

(1) **burnout** syndrome, (2) mental **burnout**

He suffered from job **burnout** because of hard work.

## enliven

v. to make something more interesting, active, or appealing; to give life or energy to something, often by adding new or creative elements

*synonym*: invigorate, animate, stimulate

(1) **enliven** a party, (2) **enliven** a conversation

The party music helped **enliven** the atmosphere and get people dancing.

## obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

*synonym*: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

## nuanced

adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

*synonym*: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the

flavor of the wine.

## frack

*v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them

*synonym*: extract, drill, mine

(1) **frack** the land, (2) **frack** multiple wells

The energy company plans to **frack** the shale deposit to extract natural gas.

## regenerative

*adj.* tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue

*synonym*: rejuvenating, restorative, healing

(1) **regenerative** medicine, (2) **regenerative** therapy

The **regenerative** properties of stem cells make them a promising area of research.

## crayon

*n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring

*synonym*: chalk, pastel, (verb) draw

(1) **crayon** drawing, (2) **crayon** her coloring books

The teacher handed out several different colored **crayons** to each student.

## quitter

*n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

*synonym*: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

## 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.

## **insecure**

*adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

*synonym*: uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

## **doer**

*n.* a person who performs or carries out an action or task; a person who is proactive or productive

*synonym*: actor, performer, achiever

(1) **doer** of good, (2) can- **doer**

If you want to succeed in life, you need to be a **doer**, not just a dreamer.

## **retrofit**

*v.* to put a new component or accessory into a machine that did not initially have it when manufactured

*synonym*: backfit, reconstruct, recycle

(1) **retrofit** an electronic system, (2) **retrofit** applications

A **retrofit** may involve putting in new door jambs.

## **nerd**

*n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

*synonym*: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

## **helm**

*n.* the wheel or other mechanism used to steer a ship or boat; the person in control or command of a ship or boat

*synonym*: steering, control, direction

(1) **helm** of a ship, (2) steer the **helm**

The ship's captain took the **helm** and charted a course through the stormy waters.

## expansive

*adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

*synonym* : large, extensive, vast

(1) with an **expansive** spirit, (2) **expansive** ocean views

The company has an **expansive** network of offices and locations around the world.

## unburdened

*adj.* not weighed down by burden or worry; free from responsibility or obligation; unencumbered

*synonym* : relieved, free

(1) **unburdened** by guilt, (2) **unburdened** soul

She felt **unburdened** after letting go of all her negative emotions.

## distract

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

*synonym* : divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

## ingenuity

*n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

*synonym* : creativity, invention, originality

(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**

Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.

## intertwine

*v.* to twist together or become twisted together

*synonym* : interweave, interlace, entwine

(1) **intertwine** thread, (2) **intertwine** story

The vines **intertwine** to form a thick canopy overhead.

## demolish

*v.* to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something

*synonym* : destroy, wreck, level

(1) **demolish** a myth, (2) **demolish** a bridge

The city decided to **demolish** the old, unsafe building and build a new one.

### **societal**

*adj.* relating to society or social relationships

*synonym*: social, communal, cultural

(1) **societal** norms, (2) **societal** expectations

The **societal** pressure to conform is strong in this community.

### **devote**

*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

*synonym*: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

### **innumerable**

*adj.* too many to be counted

*synonym*: many, infinite, countless

(1) **innumerable** stars, (2) give **innumerable** interviews

We have overcome **innumerable** difficulties since our founding.

### **centimeter**

*n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

(1) **centimeter** measurement, (2) thirty **centimeters** tall

The room was only one **centimeter** wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.

### **catastrophe**

*n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

*synonym*: disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate

**catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

**avert**

v. to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening

*synonym*: discourage, prevent, deter

(1) **avert** disaster, (2) **avert** a strike

The dam systematically releases large amounts of water to **avert** flooding during the rainy season



## Session 2: Spelling

- |  |      |   |
|--|------|---|
| 1. de_____sh a myth                        | v.   | to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something |
| 2. so_____al norms                         | adj. | relating to society or social relationships   |
| 3. reg_____ive therapy                     | adj. | tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue   |
| 4. ind_____us worker                       | adj. | hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort   |
| 5. unb_____ed by guilt                     | adj. | not weighed down by burden or worry; free from responsibility or obligation; unencumbered   |
| 6. abound in in_____ty                     | n.   | the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways  |
| 7. di_____ct attention from the real issue | v.   | to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do  |
| 8. avoid climate cat_____he                | n.   | a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune  |
| 9. d__r of good                            | n.   | a person who performs or carries out an action or task; a person who is proactive or productive   |
| 10. int_____ne story                       | v.   | to twist together or become twisted together  |
| 11. he is ob___sed with the fear           | v.   | to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else  |

ANSWERS: 1. demolish, 2. societal, 3. regenerative, 4. industrious, 5. unburdened, 6. ingenuity, 7. distract, 8. catastrophe, 9. doer, 10. intertwine, 11. obsess

12. an in\_\_\_\_\_re future *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
13. el\_\_\_\_\_fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
14. sup\_\_\_\_\_er leader *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
15. ex\_\_\_\_\_ve ocean views *adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
16. fa\_\_\_m the mystery *v.* to understand or comprehend (a difficult or complex problem or situation); to measure the depth of water
17. fr\_\_k multiple wells *v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them
18. the common but nu\_\_\_\_\_d opinion *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
19. n\_\_d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
20. de\_\_\_\_\_sh a bridge *v.* to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something

ANSWERS: 12. insecure, 13. electrify, 14. superpower, 15. expansive, 16. fathom, 17. frack, 18. nuanced, 19. nerd, 20. demolish

21. nu\_\_\_\_d view *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
22. ter\_\_\_\_\_ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
23. di\_\_\_\_\_ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
24. 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
25. in\_\_\_\_\_te electricity *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
26. sup\_\_\_\_\_er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
27. bu\_\_\_\_\_t syndrome *n.* the state of being exceedingly exhausted or unwell, either physically or mentally, as a result of overworking
28. ob\_\_\_s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
29. so\_\_\_\_\_al expectations *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
30. ter\_\_\_\_\_ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
31. organic co\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil

ANSWERS: 21. nuanced, 22. terrifying, 23. distract, 24. sect, 25. insulate, 26. superpower, 27. burnout, 28. obsess, 29. societal, 30. terrifying, 31. compost

32. h\_\_m of a ship *n.* the wheel or other mechanism used to steer a ship or boat; the person in control or command of a ship or boat
33. gar\_\_\_\_\_an appetite *adj.* of immense size, volume, or magnitude; gigantic
34. reg\_\_\_\_\_ive medicine *adj.* tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue
35. re\_\_\_\_\_it an electronic system *v.* to put a new component or accessory into a machine that did not initially have it when manufactured
36. serial qu\_\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
37. center-pi\_\_t irrigation *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
38. en\_\_\_\_\_n a conversation *v.* to make something more interesting, active, or appealing; to give life or energy to something, often by adding new or creative elements
39. unb\_\_\_\_\_ed soul *adj.* not weighed down by burden or worry; free from responsibility or obligation; unencumbered
40. de\_\_\_e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
41. fa\_\_\_m the depth *v.* to understand or comprehend (a difficult or complex problem or situation); to measure the depth of water

ANSWERS: 32. helm, 33. gargantuan, 34. regenerative, 35. retrofit, 36. quitter, 37. pivot, 38. enliven, 39. unburdened, 40. devote, 41. fathom

42. the infinite in\_\_\_\_\_ty of man *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
43. in\_\_\_\_\_te the room from sound *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
44. inn\_\_\_\_\_le stars *adj.* too many to be counted
45. cat\_\_\_\_\_he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
46. av\_\_t disaster *v.* to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening
47. mental bu\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* the state of being exceedingly exhausted or unwell, either physically or mentally, as a result of overworking
48. co\_\_\_\_\_t pile *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
49. int\_\_\_\_\_ne thread *v.* to twist together or become twisted together
50. the fo\_\_\_\_\_nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
51. give inn\_\_\_\_\_le interviews *adj.* too many to be counted
52. cr\_\_\_n her coloring books *n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring

ANSWERS: 42. ingenuity, 43. insulate, 44. innumerable, 45. catastrophe, 46. avert, 47. burnout, 48. compost, 49. intertwine, 50. footprint, 51. innumerable, 52. crayon

53. fo\_\_\_\_\_nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
54. 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
55. thirty cen\_\_\_\_\_ers tall *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
56. en\_\_\_\_\_n a party *v.* to make something more interesting, active, or appealing; to give life or energy to something, often by adding new or creative elements
57. de\_\_\_e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
58. 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
59. fr\_\_k the land *v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them
60. re\_\_\_\_\_it applications *v.* to put a new component or accessory into a machine that did not initially have it when manufactured
61. av\_\_t a strike *v.* to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening

ANSWERS: 53. footprint, 54. sect, 55. centimeter, 56. enliven, 57. devote, 58. pivot, 59. frack, 60. retrofit, 61. avert

62. el\_\_\_\_\_fy the audience      *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
63. in\_\_\_\_\_re attachment      *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
64. easy qu\_\_\_\_\_r      *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
65. can-d\_\_r      *n.* a person who performs or carries out an action or task; a person who is proactive or productive
66. gar\_\_\_\_\_an size      *adj.* of immense size, volume, or magnitude; gigantic
67. ind\_\_\_\_\_us student      *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
68. cr\_\_\_n drawing      *n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring
69. cen\_\_\_\_\_er measurement      *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
70. a computer n\_\_d      *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

ANSWERS: 62. electrify, 63. insecure, 64. quitter, 65. doer, 66. gargantuan, 67. industrious, 68. crayon, 69. centimeter, 70. nerd

71. with an ex\_\_\_\_\_ve spirit

*adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

72. steer the h\_\_m

*n.* the wheel or other mechanism used to steer a ship or boat; the person in control or command of a ship or boat

ANSWERS: 71. expansive, 72. helm



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The room was only one \_\_\_\_\_ wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.  
*n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
  
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ may involve putting in new door jambs.  
*v.* to put a new component or accessory into a machine that did not initially have it when manufactured
  
3. He's utterly \_\_\_\_\_ with his promotion.  
*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
  
4. He was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_ and would often work late into the night.  
*adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
  
5. He suffered from job \_\_\_\_\_ because of hard work.  
*n.* the state of being exceedingly exhausted or unwell, either physically or mentally, as a result of overworking
  
6. Children in an unstructured environment often feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
  
7. He was labeled as a \_\_\_\_\_ after he abandoned the project halfway.  
*n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
  
8. The ship's captain took the \_\_\_\_\_ and charted a course through the stormy waters.  
*n.* the wheel or other mechanism used to steer a ship or boat; the person in control or command of a ship or boat

ANSWERS: 1. centimeter, 2. retrofit, 3. obsessed, 4. industrious, 5. burnout, 6. insecure, 7. quitter, 8. helm

9. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ properties of stem cells make them a promising area of research.
- adj.* tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue
11. 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
12. He was, by nature, a cyber \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
13. You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your \_\_\_\_\_ to improve the pH balance.
- n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
14. The product developed through years of research continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
15. The company has an \_\_\_\_\_ network of offices and locations around the world.
- adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
16. The teacher handed out several different colored \_\_\_\_\_ to each student.
- n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring

ANSWERS: 9. footprint, 10. regenerative, 11. sect, 12. nerd, 13. compost, 14. electrify, 15. expansive, 16. crayons

17. 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
18. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.  
*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
19. We had our bedroom \_\_\_\_\_ before winter came.  
*v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
20. The construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ skyscraper was an engineering marvel.  
*adj.* of immense size, volume, or magnitude; gigantic
21. Creativity and \_\_\_\_\_ are often brought about by extreme concentration.  
*n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
22. If you want to succeed in life, you need to be a \_\_\_\_\_ not just a dreamer.  
*n.* a person who performs or carries out an action or task; a person who is proactive or productive
23. Large earthquakes often generate \_\_\_\_\_ tsunamis.  
*adj.* very frightening or intimidating
24. I cannot \_\_\_\_\_ why some people enjoy horror movies.  
*v.* to understand or comprehend (a difficult or complex problem or situation); to measure the depth of water

ANSWERS: 17. pivot, 18. devoted, 19. insulated, 20. gargantuan, 21. ingenuity, 22. doer, 23. terrifying, 24. fathom

25. The energy company plans to \_\_\_\_\_ the shale deposit to extract natural gas.
- v. to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them
26. The party music helped \_\_\_\_\_ the atmosphere and get people dancing.
- v. to make something more interesting, active, or appealing; to give life or energy to something, often by adding new or creative elements
27. The \_\_\_\_\_ pressure to conform is strong in this community.
- adj. relating to society or social relationships
28. The sommelier can distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ variance in the flavor of the wine.
- adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
29. The dam systematically releases large amounts of water to \_\_\_\_\_ flooding during the rainy season
- v. to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening
30. The lack of funds has resulted in a \_\_\_\_\_ for our university system.
- n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
31. The city decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the old, unsafe building and build a new one.
- v. to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
32. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a \_\_\_\_\_ in comic books and movies.
- n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

ANSWERS: 25. frack, 26. enliven, 27. societal, 28. nuanced, 29. avert, 30. catastrophe, 31. demolish, 32. superpower

33. We have overcome \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties since our founding.

*adj.* too many to be counted

34. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

35. She felt \_\_\_\_\_ after letting go of all her negative emotions.

*adj.* not weighed down by burden or worry; free from responsibility or obligation;  
unencumbered

36. The vines \_\_\_\_\_ to form a thick canopy overhead.

*v.* to twist together or become twisted together

ANSWERS: 33. innumerable, 34. distract, 35. unburdened, 36. intertwine