

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alexis Nikole Nelson: A flavorful field guide to foraging | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

vegan

n. a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons

(1) raw food **vegan**, (2) **vegan** lifestyle

The **vegan** diet is based on plant-based foods.

preface

n. an introduction or preliminary statement, particularly to a book or other written work, that provides context or sets out the author's purpose or perspective

synonym: introduction, preamble, prologue

(1) **preface** page, (2) book **preface**

The author wrote a powerful **preface** explaining their motivation for writing the book.

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

non-existent

adj. not real; not existing or having no real existence

synonym: not real, lacking, absent

(1) **non-existent** resources, (2) presently **non-existent**

The evidence for this theory is **non-existent**.

amalgam

n. an alloy of mercury with another metal, used especially to fill holes in teeth; a mixture or combination of diverse things

synonym: mixture, alloy, admixture

(1) **amalgam** alloy, (2) an **amalgam** of hope and fear

His theory is an **amalgam** of earlier ideas.

zeitgeist

n. the spirit or general outlook of a particular period of time, especially as it is reflected in the beliefs and attitudes of that time; the cultural, intellectual, or moral climate of a society or era

synonym: spirit of the time, trend, fashion

(1) the **zeitgeist** of the era, (2) cultural **zeitgeist**

The political speech resonated with the **zeitgeist** of national unity and cooperation.

tussle

v. to fight or struggle in a confused way, especially to get something; (noun) a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically to obtain or achieve something

synonym: scuffle, struggle, wrangle

(1) **tussle** over territory, (2) have a **tussle** with a person

The two wrestlers **tussled** on the mat for several minutes before one was declared the winner.

outdo

v. to do better than someone; to surpass

synonym: excel, surpass, outshine

(1) **outdo** him in trickery, (2) **outdo** the competition

He tried to **outdo** his rival by breaking the world record.

plunge

v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

synonym: dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

pantry

n. a small room, closet, or cupboard used for the storage of food, particularly non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry goods, and spices; a supply of food stored in this manner

synonym: larder, store, cupboard

(1) **pantry** items, (2) kitchen **pantry**

I need to clean out the **pantry** and throw away any expired food.

indigo

adj. a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye

synonym: blue, purplish-blue, violet-blue

(1) **indigo** fabric, (2) **indigo** plant

The **indigo** dye made the fabric a beautiful shade of blue.

seaweed

n. a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

synonym: kelp, algae

(1) floating **seaweed**, (2) **seaweed** broth

She soaked **seaweed** in water until tender.

mimosa

n. a cocktail typically made with champagne and orange juice; a plant with delicate, fern-like leaves and fluffy pink or yellow flowers

synonym: cocktail, drink

(1) **mimosa** tree, (2) **mimosa** cocktail

The wedding reception was decorated with delicate white roses and yellow **mimosa** arrangements.

puffball

n. a type of mushroom that produces spores inside of a spherical fruiting body; when mature, the fruiting body breaks open and releases the spores

synonym: balloon, mushroom, toadstool

(1) **puffball** spores, (2) dry **puffball**

While on a nature walk, I stumbled upon a small white **puffball** mushroom growing in the grass.

dandelion

n. a common weed with a bright yellow flower and deeply notched leaves that is often seen growing in lawns and other grassy areas; its leaves can be eaten as a salad green, and its roots are sometimes used in herbal medicine

synonym: blowball

(1) **dandelion** root, (2) **dandelion** tea

In the summer, fields are filled with yellow **dandelion** flowers.

sorrel

n. a plant with sour-tasting leaves often used in salads and soups; its leaves are generally green and have a lemon-like flavor; (of chemistry) a type of acid, specifically oxalic acid. It is a colorless, crystalline solid that is highly soluble in water and has a sour taste

synonym: sour grass, roselle

(1) **sorrel** soup, (2) salt of **sorrel**

The **sorrel** leaves gave the salad a tangy flavor.

congratulation

n. the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another

synonym: praise, compliment, felicitation

(1) **congratulation** on a promotion, (2) a matter for **congratulation**

The **congratulations** from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.

veggie

adj. (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables

synonym: vegetarian, herbivorous, plant-based

(1) **veggie** omelet, (2) **veggie** dip

I prefer to eat **veggie** burgers instead of traditional meat burgers.

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.

summertime

n. the season of summer

(1) **summertime** fun, (2) during the **summertime**

The **summertime** heat can be intense, so it's important to stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym: perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax

His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

skepticism

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

synonym: distrust, doubt, suspicion

(1) natural **skepticism**, (2) **skepticism** toward bureaucracy

This party expresses **skepticism** about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

lovable

adj. deserving or inspiring love and affection

synonym: adorable, charming, dear

(1) **lovable** personality, (2) a **lovable** creature

The little puppy was **lovable** and had a playful personality.

saltiness

n. the quality or state of being salty

(1) the taste of **saltiness**, (2) enhance the **saltiness**

She tasted the dish and detected a slight **saltiness**.

kelp

n. a large brown seaweed that grows in cold coastal waters

synonym: seaweed, marine algae

(1) **kelp** forest, (2) giant **kelp**

The coast was lined with beds of **kelp** swaying in the tide.

woo

v. to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

synonym: court, pursue, charm

(1) **woo** consumers, (2) **woo** voters with promises

He tried to **woo** her with his charm and wit.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

synonym: articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

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.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym: doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

spritz

v. to spray or moisten something lightly with a fine mist or spray of liquid, often for refreshing, cooling, or adding flavor

synonym: spray, douse, mist

(1) **spritz** perfume, (2) **spritz** with water

The bartender will **spritz** the drink with sparkling water for a refreshing twist.

sunflower

n. a plant with large, round flower heads that have bright yellow petals and a dark center, grown for its edible seeds and oil, as well as for decorative purposes

synonym: helianthus

(1) **sunflower** oil, (2) **sunflower** field

The **sunflower** seeds can be roasted and eaten as a snack.

monoculture

n. the cultivation of a single crop or type of animal over a wide area

synonym: single crop, uniform, homogenous

(1) **monoculture** strategy, (2) corn **monoculture**

Monoculture farming can also increase the risk of pests and diseases, as the lack of diversity makes it easier for these organisms to spread and cause harm to the crop.

umami

n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter

synonym: savory, delicious, meaty

(1) **umami** enhancer, (2) **umami** flavor

Japanese food lovers appreciate the **umami** taste of miso soup.

touchy

adj. easily offended or upset, or sensitive

synonym: sensitive, easily offended

(1) **touchy** subject, (2) a little **touchy** personality

The **touchy** situation required careful handling to avoid further conflict.

rind

n. the tough outer layer of something, such as a fruit or cheese; a strip or ring of the outer skin, covering, or layer on an object

synonym: peel, skin, husk

(1) orange **rind**, (2) cheese **rind**

The cheese had a thick **rind** that needed to be removed before eating.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

infographic

n. a visual representation of information or data often used to present complicated or complex concepts in a simple and understandable way

(1) **infographic** design, (2) **infographic** presentation

The company shared an impressive **infographic** about its annual profits.

gutsy

adj. displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges

synonym: courageous, brave, daring

(1) **gutsy** move, (2) **gutsy** performance

It was **gutsy** to quit her job and start her own business.

acorn

n. the fruit of an oak tree; a small, hard-shelled nut that is a traditional symbol of autumn and is often eaten by animals

synonym: seed, nut, mast

(1) **acorn** woodpecker, (2) **acorn** squash

The squirrel gathered **acorns** to prepare for the winter months.

crunch

n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

synonym: crushing, snapping, crisis

(1) financial **crunch**, (2) a gas **crunch**

The **crunch** of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.

Session 2: Spelling

1. salt of so___l
n. a plant with sour-tasting leaves often used in salads and soups; its leaves are generally green and have a lemon-like flavor; (of chemistry) a type of acid, specifically oxalic acid. It is a colorless, crystalline solid that is highly soluble in water and has a sour taste
2. sk_____al scientists
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
3. pa___y items
n. a small room, closet, or cupboard used for the storage of food, particularly non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry goods, and spices; a supply of food stored in this manner
4. pr_____ce a name
v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
5. a s__m battle
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
6. pr_____ce a judgment
v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
7. non_____ent resources
adj. not real; not existing or having no real existence
8. baseless pre_____on
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 1. sorrel, 2. skeptical, 3. pantry, 4. pronounce, 5. sham, 6. pronounce, 7. non-existent, 8. pretension

9. in___o fabric *adj.* a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye
10. orange r__d *n.* the tough outer layer of something, such as a fruit or cheese; a strip or ring of the outer skin, covering, or layer on an object
11. co_____e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
12. during the sum_____me *n.* the season of summer
13. natural ske_____sm *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
14. giant k__p *n.* a large brown seaweed that grows in cold coastal waters
15. w_o consumers *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
16. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
17. am_____m alloy *n.* an alloy of mercury with another metal, used especially to fill holes in teeth; a mixture or combination of diverse things
18. a lo_____e creature *adj.* deserving or inspiring love and affection
19. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

ANSWERS: 9. indigo, 10. rind, 11. conjure, 12. summertime, 13. skepticism, 14. kelp, 15. woo, 16. obsess, 17. amalgam, 18. lovable, 19. skepticism

20. the ze_____st of the era *n.* the spirit or general outlook of a particular period of time, especially as it is reflected in the beliefs and attitudes of that time; the cultural, intellectual, or moral climate of a society or era
21. financial cr___h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
22. ac__n squash *n.* the fruit of an oak tree; a small, hard-shelled nut that is a traditional symbol of autumn and is often eaten by animals
23. 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
24. um__i enhancer *n.* a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter
25. ou__o him in trickery *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
26. cultural ze_____st *n.* the spirit or general outlook of a particular period of time, especially as it is reflected in the beliefs and attitudes of that time; the cultural, intellectual, or moral climate of a society or era
27. con_____ion on a promotion *n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another

ANSWERS: 20. zeitgeist, 21. crunch, 22. acorn, 23. fungus, 24. umami, 25. outdo, 26. zeitgeist, 27. congratulation

28. ve___e dip *adj.* (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables
29. su_____er field *n.* a plant with large, round flower heads that have bright yellow petals and a dark center, grown for its edible seeds and oil, as well as for decorative purposes
30. so___l soup *n.* a plant with sour-tasting leaves often used in salads and soups; its leaves are generally green and have a lemon-like flavor; (of chemistry) a type of acid, specifically oxalic acid. It is a colorless, crystalline solid that is highly soluble in water and has a sour taste
31. sp___z perfume *v.* to spray or moisten something lightly with a fine mist or spray of liquid, often for refreshing, cooling, or adding flavor
32. kitchen pa___y *n.* a small room, closet, or cupboard used for the storage of food, particularly non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry goods, and spices; a supply of food stored in this manner
33. dry pu_____ll *n.* a type of mushroom that produces spores inside of a spherical fruiting body; when mature, the fruiting body breaks open and releases the spores
34. raw food ve__n *n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
35. inf_____ic design *n.* a visual representation of information or data often used to present complicated or complex concepts in a simple and understandable way

ANSWERS: 28. veggie, 29. sunflower, 30. sorrel, 31. spritz, 32. pantry, 33. puffball, 34. vegan, 35. infographic

36. tu___e over territory *v.* to fight or struggle in a confused way, especially to get something; (noun) a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically to obtain or achieve something
37. um__i flavor *n.* a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter
38. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
39. k__p forest *n.* a large brown seaweed that grows in cold coastal waters
40. da_____on root *n.* a common weed with a bright yellow flower and deeply notched leaves that is often seen growing in lawns and other grassy areas; its leaves can be eaten as a salad green, and its roots are sometimes used in herbal medicine
41. a little to___y personality *adj.* easily offended or upset, or sensitive
42. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
43. lo_____e personality *adj.* deserving or inspiring love and affection
44. ou__o the competition *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
45. presently non_____ent *adj.* not real; not existing or having no real existence
46. pl___e a dagger through his heart *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

ANSWERS: 36. tussle, 37. umami, 38. sham, 39. kelp, 40. dandelion, 41. touchy, 42. obsess, 43. lovable, 44. outdo, 45. non-existent, 46. plunge

47. mi___a tree *n.* a cocktail typically made with champagne and orange juice; a plant with delicate, fern-like leaves and fluffy pink or yellow flowers
48. pl___e into the water *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
49. w_o voters with promises *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
50. mi___a cocktail *n.* a cocktail typically made with champagne and orange juice; a plant with delicate, fern-like leaves and fluffy pink or yellow flowers
51. enhance the sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
52. have a tu___e with a person *v.* to fight or struggle in a confused way, especially to get something; (noun) a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically to obtain or achieve something
53. mon_____re strategy *n.* the cultivation of a single crop or type of animal over a wide area
54. da_____on tea *n.* a common weed with a bright yellow flower and deeply notched leaves that is often seen growing in lawns and other grassy areas; its leaves can be eaten as a salad green, and its roots are sometimes used in herbal medicine
55. sp___z with water *v.* to spray or moisten something lightly with a fine mist or spray of liquid, often for refreshing, cooling, or adding flavor

ANSWERS: 47. mimosa, 48. plunge, 49. woo, 50. mimosa, 51. saltiness, 52. tussle, 53. monoculture, 54. dandelion, 55. spritz

56. inf_____ic presentation *n.* a visual representation of information or data often used to present complicated or complex concepts in a simple and understandable way
57. a sk_____al attitude *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
58. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
59. book pr_____e *n.* an introduction or preliminary statement, particularly to a book or other written work, that provides context or sets out the author's purpose or perspective
60. pr_____e page *n.* an introduction or preliminary statement, particularly to a book or other written work, that provides context or sets out the author's purpose or perspective
61. su_____er oil *n.* a plant with large, round flower heads that have bright yellow petals and a dark center, grown for its edible seeds and oil, as well as for decorative purposes
62. to___y subject *adj.* easily offended or upset, or sensitive
63. a gas cr___h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

ANSWERS: 56. infographic, 57. skeptical, 58. pretension, 59. preface, 60. preface, 61. sunflower, 62. touchy, 63. crunch

64. floating se_____d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
65. fu___s infection *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
66. corn mon_____re *n.* the cultivation of a single crop or type of animal over a wide area
67. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
68. pu_____ll spores *n.* a type of mushroom that produces spores inside of a spherical fruiting body; when mature, the fruiting body breaks open and releases the spores
69. gu__y move *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
70. cheese r__d *n.* the tough outer layer of something, such as a fruit or cheese; a strip or ring of the outer skin, covering, or layer on an object
71. gu__y performance *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
72. ba___e his plan *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

ANSWERS: 64. seaweed, 65. fungus, 66. monoculture, 67. inhabitant, 68. puffball, 69. gutsy, 70. rind, 71. gutsy, 72. baffle

73. in___o plant *adj.* a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye
74. co_____e a vision *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
75. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
76. ac__n woodpecker *n.* the fruit of an oak tree; a small, hard-shelled nut that is a traditional symbol of autumn and is often eaten by animals
77. a matter for con_____ion *n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
78. ve__n lifestyle *n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
79. se_____d broth *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
80. ba___e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
81. the taste of sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
82. ve___e omelet *adj.* (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables
83. an am_____m of hope and fear *n.* an alloy of mercury with another metal, used especially to fill holes in teeth; a mixture or combination of diverse things

ANSWERS: 73. indigo, 74. conjure, 75. inhabitant, 76. acorn, 77. congratulation, 78. vegan, 79. seaweed, 80. baffle, 81. saltiness, 82. veggie, 83. amalgam

84. sum_____me fun

n. the season of summer

ANSWERS: 84. summertime

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ seeds can be roasted and eaten as a snack.
n. a plant with large, round flower heads that have bright yellow petals and a dark center, grown for its edible seeds and oil, as well as for decorative purposes
2. The coast was lined with beds of _____ swaying in the tide.
n. a large brown seaweed that grows in cold coastal waters
3. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
4. The little puppy was _____ and had a playful personality.
adj. deserving or inspiring love and affection
5. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
6. She tasted the dish and detected a slight _____.
n. the quality or state of being salty
7. This party expresses _____ about the efficacy of the health insurance system.
n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
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

ANSWERS: 1. sunflower, 2. kelp, 3. inhabitant, 4. lovable, 5. obsessed, 6. saltiness, 7. skepticism, 8. fungus

9. In the summer, fields are filled with yellow _____ flowers.
- n.* a common weed with a bright yellow flower and deeply notched leaves that is often seen growing in lawns and other grassy areas; its leaves can be eaten as a salad green, and its roots are sometimes used in herbal medicine
10. The _____ dye made the fabric a beautiful shade of blue.
- adj.* a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye
11. _____ farming can also increase the risk of pests and diseases, as the lack of diversity makes it easier for these organisms to spread and cause harm to the crop.
- n.* the cultivation of a single crop or type of animal over a wide area
12. The company's profits _____ after the recall of their new product.
- v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
13. The political speech resonated with the _____ of national unity and cooperation.
- n.* the spirit or general outlook of a particular period of time, especially as it is reflected in the beliefs and attitudes of that time; the cultural, intellectual, or moral climate of a society or era
14. His theory is an _____ of earlier ideas.
- n.* an alloy of mercury with another metal, used especially to fill holes in teeth; a mixture or combination of diverse things
15. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.
- adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful

ANSWERS: 9. dandelion, 10. indigo, 11. Monoculture, 12. plunged, 13. zeitgeist, 14. amalgam, 15. skeptical

16. The author wrote a powerful _____ explaining their motivation for writing the book.
- n.* an introduction or preliminary statement, particularly to a book or other written work, that provides context or sets out the author's purpose or perspective
17. The company shared an impressive _____ about its annual profits.
- n.* a visual representation of information or data often used to present complicated or complex concepts in a simple and understandable way
18. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.
- v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
19. He tried to ____ her with his charm and wit.
- v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
20. She soaked _____ in water until tender.
- n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
21. The two wrestlers _____ on the mat for several minutes before one was declared the winner.
- v.* to fight or struggle in a confused way, especially to get something; (noun) a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically to obtain or achieve something
22. I prefer to eat _____ burgers instead of traditional meat burgers.
- adj.* (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables
23. It was _____ to quit her job and start her own business.
- adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges

ANSWERS: 16. preface, 17. infographic, 18. pronounce, 19. woo, 20. seaweed, 21. tussled, 22. veggie, 23. gutsy

24. The _____ heat can be intense, so it's important to stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.
n. the season of summer
25. The evidence for this theory is _____.
adj. not real; not existing or having no real existence
26. The _____ leaves gave the salad a tangy flavor.
n. a plant with sour-tasting leaves often used in salads and soups; its leaves are generally green and have a lemon-like flavor; (of chemistry) a type of acid, specifically oxalic acid. It is a colorless, crystalline solid that is highly soluble in water and has a sour taste
27. The bartender will _____ the drink with sparkling water for a refreshing twist.
v. to spray or moisten something lightly with a fine mist or spray of liquid, often for refreshing, cooling, or adding flavor
28. The _____ from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.
n. the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
29. While on a nature walk, I stumbled upon a small white _____ mushroom growing in the grass.
n. a type of mushroom that produces spores inside of a spherical fruiting body; when mature, the fruiting body breaks open and releases the spores
30. The cheese had a thick _____ that needed to be removed before eating.
n. the tough outer layer of something, such as a fruit or cheese; a strip or ring of the outer skin, covering, or layer on an object

ANSWERS: 24. summertime, 25. non-existent, 26. sorrel, 27. spritz, 28. congratulations, 29. puffball, 30. rind

31. The _____ diet is based on plant-based foods.
- n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
32. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
33. I need to clean out the _____ and throw away any expired food.
- n.* a small room, closet, or cupboard used for the storage of food, particularly non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry goods, and spices; a supply of food stored in this manner
34. The wedding reception was decorated with delicate white roses and yellow _____ arrangements.
- n.* a cocktail typically made with champagne and orange juice; a plant with delicate, fern-like leaves and fluffy pink or yellow flowers
35. He tried to _____ his rival by breaking the world record.
- v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
36. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
- v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
37. Japanese food lovers appreciate the _____ taste of miso soup.
- n.* a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter

ANSWERS: 31. vegan, 32. pretensions, 33. pantry, 34. mimosa, 35. outdo, 36. baffled, 37. umami

38. The squirrel gathered _____ to prepare for the winter months.
n. the fruit of an oak tree; a small, hard-shelled nut that is a traditional symbol of autumn and is often eaten by animals
39. The _____ situation required careful handling to avoid further conflict.
adj. easily offended or upset, or sensitive
40. The data he prepared was completely _____.
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
41. The _____ of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.
n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
42. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.
v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

ANSWERS: 38. acorns, 39. touchy, 40. sham, 41. crunch, 42. conjured