

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Maria Popova: Humanity's search for cosmic truth and poetic beauty | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/maria\\_popova\\_humanity\\_s\\_search\\_for\\_cosmic\\_truth\\_and\\_poetic\\_beauty](https://www.ted.com/talks/maria_popova_humanity_s_search_for_cosmic_truth_and_poetic_beauty)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### prelude

*n.* an introductory or preparatory piece of music often played before a larger work or performance; a preliminary or introductory event or action

*synonym*: introduction, opening, prologue

(1) **prelude** music, (2) ominous **prelude**

The book's introductory chapter provided a **prelude** to the rest of the story.

### observatory

*n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

(1) space **observatory**, (2) a meteorological **observatory**

That astronomical **observatory** stands at the top of the mountain.

### fluctuate

*v.* to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably

*synonym*: vary, oscillate, sway

(1) **fluctuate** prices, (2) **fluctuate** rapidly

Stock prices **fluctuate** daily based on market demand and supply.

### lighthouse

*n.* a tower or other structure that is equipped with a powerful light designed to guide ships safely to harbor or

warn them of impending danger

*synonym* : beacon, pharos, guiding light

(1) **lighthouse** beacon, (2) **lighthouse** keeper

Tourists gathered at the **lighthouse's** base to take photos and admire the view.

## beacon

*n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

*synonym* : lighthouse, guidepost, marker

(1) an aerial **beacon**, (2) **beacon** of hope

The lighthouse served as a **beacon** to guide ships safely into port.

## yardstick

*n.* a long, narrow strip of wood or metal that is marked with measurements, typically used to measure or compare the length, height, or width of something; a standard against which something can be compared or judged

*synonym* : standard, criterion, benchmark

(1) **yardstick** measurement, (2) **yardstick** comparison

Using test scores as a **yardstick** to measure intelligence is only sometimes reliable.

## repress

*v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories

*synonym* : suppress, control, curb

(1) cannot **repress** laughter, (2) **repress** gene expression

He **repressed** the memories of his traumatic childhood.

## perch

*v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

*synonym* : sit, roost, squat

(1) **perch** on a ledge, (2) **perch** of a bird of prey

The bird **perched** on the branch, watching the world below.

## nebula

*n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source

*synonym*: cloud, mist, stardust

(1) a spiral **nebula**, (2) emission **nebula**

The galactic **nebula** was a beautiful sight through the telescope, with its vibrant colors and swirling clouds.

## gravitational

*adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

*synonym*: weighty, heavy, earthbound

(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves

The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.

## furrow

*n.* a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face

*synonym*: groove, trench, rut

(1) ploughed **furrow**, (2) narrow **furrow**

The farmer plowed deep **furrows** in the field before planting his crops.

## brow

*n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead

*synonym*: forehead, hilltop, eyebrow

(1) the **brow** of a hill, (2) furrowed **brow**

She wiped the sweat from her **brow** after finishing the marathon.

## gasp

*v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

*synonym*: breathe, pant, heave

(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock

The audience **gasped** when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

## scribble

*v.* to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry

*synonym*: scabble, scrawl, jot

(1) **scribble** on paper, (2) **scribble** notes

The words were **scribbled** in pencil.

## exclamation

*n.* a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion

*synonym*: outcry, shout, yell

(1) an **exclamation** of surprise, (2) **exclamation** mark

Her sudden **exclamation** drew everyone's attention.

## fleck

*n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance

*synonym*: spot, speck, dot

(1) **fleck** of paint, (2) **fleck** of dust

A small **fleck** of red wine ruined the white shirt.

## nova

*n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth

*synonym*: supernova, exploding star, nova remnant

(1) **nova** explosion, (2) **nova** star

The astronomer spent months studying the **nova's** light spectrum to learn more about its properties.

## occlude

*v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access

*synonym*: block, obstruct, close

(1) **occlude** a blood vessel, (2) **occlude** the ureteral orifice

The traffic jam **occluded** the road and caused a significant delay in the journey.

## shimmer

*v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten

*synonym*: gleam, glimmer, flash

(1) **shimmer** with tears, (2) **shimmer** in the moonlight

The sunlight made the water in the pool **shimmer** like diamonds.

## perseverance

*n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

*synonym* : persistence, tenacity, determination

(1) unwavering **perseverance**, (2) dogged **perseverance**

Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his **perseverance** and determination led him to success.

## spherical

*adj.* having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance

*synonym* : round, orbicular, spherical

(1) **spherical** shape, (2) **spherical** object

The Earth is a nearly **spherical** planet.

## warp

*v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

*synonym* : twist, distort, deform

(1) **warp** under pressure, (2) become **warped**

The ship's hull was **warped** from years of use in rough seas.

## unfathomed

*adj.* unable to be understood or measured; too deep or mysterious to be fully grasped or explored

*synonym* : unfathomable, inscrutable, impenetrable

(1) **unfathomed** depths, (2) **unfathomed** mysteries

The ocean's depths are still **unfathomed** territory for many scientists.

## observant

*adj.* paying careful attention to details and surroundings; quick to notice things and circumstances; mindful of social norms and customs

*synonym* : attentive, vigilant, perceptive

(1) **observant** eye, (2) **observant** nature

The **observant** detective noticed the smallest details that helped solve the crime.

## laureate

*n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**

The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.

## commemorate

*v.* to honor the memory of someone or something by ceremony or tribute

*synonym*: honor, remember, celebrate

(1) **commemorate** her long life, (2) **commemorate** a deed

The country **commemorated** the war heroes on Memorial Day.

## observable

*adj.* that can be noticed or seen

*synonym*: visible, perceptible, detectable

(1) **observable** change, (2) experimentally **observable**

Any theorem relies on both **observable** fact and assumption.

## rev

*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym*: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

## narrator

*n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film

*synonym*: teller, storyteller

(1) first-person **narrator**, (2) the **narrator** of the TV program

The **narrator** makes use of the local dialect.

## scrub

*v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

*synonym* : clean, wash, sanitize

(1) **scrub** off graffiti, (2) **scrub** dirt from potatoes

She decided to **scrub** the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

## sheath

*n.* a close-fitting cover to protect something such as the blade of a knife, sword, or other sharp objects

*synonym* : covering, case

(1) a sword **sheath**, (2) peripheral nerve **sheath**

He had long suffered from inflammation of a tendon **sheath**.

## papery

*adj.* having the texture, appearance, or thinness of paper; brittle or fragile like paper

*synonym* : thin, papery, flimsy

(1) thin **papery** skin, (2) **papery** leaves

The **papery** texture of the old book was delicate to the touch.

## scotch

*v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom

*synonym* : halt, stop, block

(1) **scotch** any further debate, (2) **scotch** the deal

I need to **scotch** these rumors before they spread any further.

## weightless

*adj.* having no weight or feeling as if one has no weight, often related to zero gravity or outer space

*synonym* : floatable, buoyant, light

(1) **weightless** flight, (2) **weightless** environment

The astronaut felt **weightless** as she floated inside the International Space Station.

## blur

*n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

*synonym* : smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

## **cheerful**

*adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism

*synonym* : happy, joyful, lively

(1) **cheerful** smile, (2) a **cheerful** disposition

Her **cheerful** personality brightened up the room.

## **jibe**

*v.* to be in agreement; to fit together smoothly; (noun) a taunting or insulting remark; an action that is in accord or agreement with something else

*synonym* : agree, conform, harmonize

(1) friendly **jibe**, (2) **jibe** with expectations

The politician's words didn't **jibe** with his previous statements, making people question his honesty.

## **comprehend**

*v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully

*synonym* : understand, grasp, apprehend

(1) **comprehend** English, (2) **comprehend** instructions

She struggled to **comprehend** complex math problems.



## Session 2: Spelling

1. g\_\_p for air  
*v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
2. ch\_\_\_\_ul smile  
*adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
3. ob\_\_\_\_\_nt nature  
*adj.* paying careful attention to details and surroundings; quick to notice things and circumstances; mindful of social norms and customs
4. fl\_\_\_\_\_te rapidly  
*v.* to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably
5. com\_\_\_\_\_te her long life  
*v.* to honor the memory of someone or something by ceremony or tribute
6. sp\_\_\_\_\_al object  
*adj.* having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
7. become w\_\_ped  
*v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
8. oc\_\_\_\_\_e a blood vessel  
*v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access
9. the na\_\_\_\_\_or of the TV program  
*n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film

ANSWERS: 1. gasp, 2. cheerful, 3. observant, 4. fluctuate, 5. commemorate, 6. spherical, 7. warp, 8. occlude, 9. narrator

10. fl\_\_k of paint *n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance
11. gra\_\_\_\_\_nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
12. space obs\_\_\_\_\_ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
13. com\_\_\_\_\_te a deed *v.* to honor the memory of someone or something by ceremony or tribute
14. pe\_\_h on a ledge *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
15. lig\_\_\_\_\_se beacon *n.* a tower or other structure that is equipped with a powerful light designed to guide ships safely to harbor or warn them of impending danger
16. com\_\_\_\_\_nd instructions *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
17. a ch\_\_\_\_\_ul disposition *adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
18. a meteorological obs\_\_\_\_\_ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

ANSWERS: 10. fleck, 11. gravitational, 12. observatory, 13. commemorate, 14. perch, 15. lighthouse, 16. comprehend, 17. cheerful, 18. observatory

19. sc\_\_\_h any further debate      *v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
20. obs\_\_\_\_\_le change      *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
21. sc\_\_b dirt from potatoes      *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
22. an exc\_\_\_\_\_on of surprise      *n.* a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion
23. re\_\_\_\_\_s gene expression      *v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
24. fl\_\_\_\_\_te prices      *v.* to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably
25. low-r\_v engine      *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
26. ya\_\_\_\_\_ck comparison      *n.* a long, narrow strip of wood or metal that is marked with measurements, typically used to measure or compare the length, height, or width of something; a standard against which something can be compared or judged
27. be\_\_\_n of hope      *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

ANSWERS: 19. scotch, 20. observable, 21. scrub, 22. exclamation, 23. repress, 24. fluctuate, 25. rev, 26. yardstick, 27. beacon

28. w\_\_p under pressure      *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
29. an aerial be\_\_\_n      *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning
30. lig\_\_\_\_\_se keeper      *n.* a tower or other structure that is equipped with a powerful light designed to guide ships safely to harbor or warn them of impending danger
31. a sword sh\_\_\_h      *n.* a close-fitting cover to protect something such as the blade of a knife, sword, or other sharp objects
32. exc\_\_\_\_\_on mark      *n.* a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion
33. pe\_\_h of a bird of prey      *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
34. b\_\_r image      *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
35. sh\_\_\_\_\_r with tears      *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
36. ob\_\_\_\_\_nt eye      *adj.* paying careful attention to details and surroundings; quick to notice things and circumstances; mindful of social norms and customs

ANSWERS: 28. warp, 29. beacon, 30. lighthouse, 31. sheath, 32. exclamation, 33. perch, 34. blur, 35. shimmer, 36. observant

37. sp\_\_\_\_\_al shape *adj.* having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
38. poet la\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
39. sc\_\_\_\_h the deal *v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
40. sh\_\_\_\_\_r in the moonlight *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
41. n\_\_a explosion *n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
42. ominous pr\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* an introductory or preparatory piece of music often played before a larger work or performance; a preliminary or introductory event or action
43. g\_\_p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

ANSWERS: 37. spherical, 38. laureate, 39. scotch, 40. shimmer, 41. nova, 42. prelude, 43. gasp

44. emission ne\_\_\_a *n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
45. thin pa\_\_\_y skin *adj.* having the texture, appearance, or thinness of paper; brittle or fragile like paper
46. n\_\_a star *n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
47. cannot re\_\_\_\_\_s laughter *v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
48. a spiral ne\_\_\_a *n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
49. the b\_\_w of a hill *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
50. ploughed fu\_\_\_w *n.* a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face
51. dogged per\_\_\_\_\_nce *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
52. r\_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 44. nebula, 45. papery, 46. nova, 47. repress, 48. nebula, 49. brow, 50. furrow, 51. perseverance, 52. rev

53. unf\_\_\_\_\_ed depths *adj.* unable to be understood or measured; too deep or mysterious to be fully grasped or explored
54. com\_\_\_\_\_nd English *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
55. first-person na\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
56. pr\_\_\_\_\_e music *n.* an introductory or preparatory piece of music often played before a larger work or performance; a preliminary or introductory event or action
57. furrowed b\_\_w *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
58. narrow fu\_\_\_w *n.* a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face
59. experimentally obs\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
60. unwavering per\_\_\_\_\_nce *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
61. Oscar la\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
62. motion b\_\_r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

ANSWERS: 53. unfathomed, 54. comprehend, 55. narrator, 56. prelude, 57. brow, 58. furrow, 59. observable, 60. perseverance, 61. laureate, 62. blur

63. gra\_\_\_\_\_nal waves      *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
64. friendly j\_\_e      *v.* to be in agreement; to fit together smoothly; (noun) a taunting or insulting remark; an action that is in accord or agreement with something else
65. sc\_\_\_\_\_le notes      *v.* to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry
66. pa\_\_\_y leaves      *adj.* having the texture, appearance, or thinness of paper; brittle or fragile like paper
67. ya\_\_\_\_\_ck measurement      *n.* a long, narrow strip of wood or metal that is marked with measurements, typically used to measure or compare the length, height, or width of something; a standard against which something can be compared or judged
68. wei\_\_\_\_\_ss environment      *adj.* having no weight or feeling as if one has no weight, often related to zero gravity or outer space
69. j\_\_e with expectations      *v.* to be in agreement; to fit together smoothly; (noun) a taunting or insulting remark; an action that is in accord or agreement with something else
70. peripheral nerve sh\_\_\_h      *n.* a close-fitting cover to protect something such as the blade of a knife, sword, or other sharp objects
71. wei\_\_\_\_\_ss flight      *adj.* having no weight or feeling as if one has no weight, often related to zero gravity or outer space

ANSWERS: 63. gravitational, 64. jibe, 65. scribble, 66. papery, 67. yardstick, 68. weightless, 69. jibe, 70. sheath, 71. weightless



72. sc\_\_\_\_le on paper                      *v.* to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry
73. unf\_\_\_\_\_ed mysteries              *adj.* unable to be understood or measured; too deep or mysterious to be fully grasped or explored
74. oc\_\_\_\_\_e the ureteral orifice      *v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access
75. fl\_\_k of dust                              *n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance
76. sc\_\_b off graffiti                        *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

ANSWERS: 72. scribble, 73. unfathomed, 74. occlude, 75. fleck, 76. scrub

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Tourists gathered at the \_\_\_\_\_ base to take photos and admire the view.
  - n.* a tower or other structure that is equipped with a powerful light designed to guide ships safely to harbor or warn them of impending danger
  
2. The audience \_\_\_\_\_ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
  - v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
  
3. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ these rumors before they spread any further.
  - v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
  
4. She wiped the sweat from her \_\_\_\_\_ after finishing the marathon.
  - n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
  
5. The sunlight made the water in the pool \_\_\_\_\_ like diamonds.
  - v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
  
6. The ship's hull was \_\_\_\_\_ from years of use in rough seas.
  - v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
  
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ makes use of the local dialect.
  - n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film

ANSWERS: 1. lighthouse's, 2. gasped, 3. scotch, 4. brow, 5. shimmer, 6. warped, 7. narrator

8. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a \_\_\_\_\_ of colors and shapes.  
*n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
9. He had long suffered from inflammation of a tendon \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a close-fitting cover to protect something such as the blade of a knife, sword, or other sharp objects
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ the memories of his traumatic childhood.  
*v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ texture of the old book was delicate to the touch.  
*adj.* having the texture, appearance, or thinness of paper; brittle or fragile like paper
12. Her \_\_\_\_\_ personality brightened up the room.  
*adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
13. The Earth is a nearly \_\_\_\_\_ planet.  
*adj.* having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ detective noticed the smallest details that helped solve the crime.  
*adj.* paying careful attention to details and surroundings; quick to notice things and circumstances; mindful of social norms and customs
15. The politician's words didn't \_\_\_\_\_ with his previous statements, making people question his honesty.  
*v.* to be in agreement; to fit together smoothly; (noun) a taunting or insulting remark; an action that is in accord or agreement with something else

ANSWERS: 8. blur, 9. sheath, 10. repressed, 11. papery, 12. cheerful, 13. spherical, 14. observant, 15. jibe

16. The lighthouse served as a \_\_\_\_\_ to guide ships safely into port.  
*n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning
17. The galactic \_\_\_\_\_ was a beautiful sight through the telescope, with its vibrant colors and swirling clouds.  
*n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
18. The farmer plowed deep \_\_\_\_\_ in the field before planting his crops.  
*n.* a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face
19. The country \_\_\_\_\_ the war heroes on Memorial Day.  
*v.* to honor the memory of someone or something by ceremony or tribute
20. The ocean's depths are still \_\_\_\_\_ territory for many scientists.  
*adj.* unable to be understood or measured; too deep or mysterious to be fully grasped or explored
21. She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.  
*v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
22. The Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.  
*n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
23. The astronaut felt \_\_\_\_\_ as she floated inside the International Space Station.  
*adj.* having no weight or feeling as if one has no weight, often related to zero gravity or outer space

ANSWERS: 16. beacon, 17. nebula, 18. furrows, 19. commemorated, 20. unfathomed, 21. scrub, 22. laureate, 23. weightless

24. Her sudden \_\_\_\_\_ drew everyone's attention.  
*n.* a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion
25. The words were \_\_\_\_\_ in pencil.  
*v.* to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry
26. The bird \_\_\_\_\_ on the branch, watching the world below.  
*v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
27. The astronomer spent months studying the \_\_\_\_\_ light spectrum to learn more about its properties.  
*n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
28. That astronomical \_\_\_\_\_ stands at the top of the mountain.  
*n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
29. The traffic jam \_\_\_\_\_ the road and caused a significant delay in the journey.  
*v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access
30. The book's introductory chapter provided a \_\_\_\_\_ to the rest of the story.  
*n.* an introductory or preparatory piece of music often played before a larger work or performance; a preliminary or introductory event or action
31. Stock prices \_\_\_\_\_ daily based on market demand and supply.  
*v.* to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably

ANSWERS: 24. exclamation, 25. scribbled, 26. perched, 27. nova's, 28. observatory, 29. occluded, 30. prelude, 31. fluctuate

32. The \_\_\_\_\_ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.  
*adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
33. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
34. She struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ complex math problems.  
*v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
35. A small \_\_\_\_\_ of red wine ruined the white shirt.  
*n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance
36. Any theorem relies on both \_\_\_\_\_ fact and assumption.  
*adj.* that can be noticed or seen
37. Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his \_\_\_\_\_ and determination led him to success.  
*n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
38. Using test scores as a \_\_\_\_\_ to measure intelligence is only sometimes reliable.  
*n.* a long, narrow strip of wood or metal that is marked with measurements, typically used to measure or compare the length, height, or width of something; a standard against which something can be compared or judged

ANSWERS: 32. gravitational, 33. rev, 34. comprehend, 35. fleck, 36. observable, 37. perseverance, 38. yardstick

ANSWERS: