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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dwan Reece: The origins of blackface and Black stereotypes | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

synonym: creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger

The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym: below

(1) creep **downstairs**, (2) escort him **downstairs**

Please get the desk **downstairs**.

blackface

n. (considered offensive) a form of theatrical makeup used to portray a negative and stereotypical caricature of black people, often involving the use of darkening makeup on the face

synonym: dark makeup, minstrelsy, blacking

(1) **blackface** makeup, (2) **blackface** performance

The use of **blackface** in entertainment is widely regarded as offensive and inappropriate.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality
Her remarks **confused** the debate.

minstrel

n. historically, a medieval poet, musician, or performer who traveled from place to place, often entertaining audiences with music, song, and poetry; a performer or entertainer who performs traditional or folk music, storytelling, or other forms of performance art

synonym: balladeer, troubadour, bard

(1) **minstrel** show, (2) traveling **minstrel**

The king often hired a **minstrel** to entertain him and his court with music and stories.

cork

n. a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper

synonym: stopper, bung, plug

(1) **cork** a bottle, (2) **cork** flooring

She used a **cork** board to display her favorite photographs.

exaggerate

v. to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is

synonym: overstate, overestimate, amplify

(1) **exaggerate** in degree, (2) **exaggerate** story

She **exaggerated** the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.

wig

n. a head covering made of synthetic or real hair worn for a variety of reasons, including as a fashion accessory, to conceal hair loss or baldness, or as part of a costume

synonym: hairpiece, toupee, hair system

(1) curly **wig**, (2) blonde **wig**

She decided to wear a pink **wig** to the costume party.

parody

n. a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature or music designed to ridicule or criticize the original work

synonym : spoof, satire, lampoon

(1) **parody** imitation, (2) comedic **parody**

The movie was a **parody** of classic horror films.

intersperse

v. to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals

synonym : scatter, distribute, insert

(1) **intersperse** his speech, (2) **intersperse** exclamation marks

The author **interspersed** anecdotes throughout the book to break up the text and make it more engaging.

stump

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

synonym : mix up

(1) the riddle **stumped** everybody, (2) we are **stumped** with the problem

He is **stumped** with the question.

interlude

n. a period of time between two events or periods of activity, often marked by a pause or break; a brief entertainment or performance between two larger acts or events

synonym : interval, break, pause

(1) musical **interlude**, (2) brief **interlude**

The **interlude** between acts allowed the audience to stretch their legs and chat.

skit

n. a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance

synonym : sketch, parody, routine

(1) comedy **skit**, (2) political **skit**

The comedy group performed a hilarious **skit** about life in quarantine.

interlocutor

n. a person who participates in a conversation or dialogue; a person who speaks or converses with another

synonym: mediator, negotiator, go-between

(1) speak with an **interlocutor**, (2) find an **interlocutor**

She was my **interlocutor**, facilitating the conversation between the two sides.

emcee

n. (a short for MC, a master of ceremonies) who introduces speakers, performers, or entertainers and keeps the event moving smoothly; (verb) to act as the master of ceremonies or a host of an event, typically by introducing performers, speakers, or other participants and helping to keep the event organized and flowing smoothly

synonym: host, presenter, master of ceremonies

(1) talented **emcee**, (2) **emcee** a wedding

The radio show **emcee** interviewed the celebrity guest about their latest project

clown

n. a performer, typically in a circus, who wears distinctive makeup and costumes and plays practical jokes, and performs tricks or stunts to entertain audiences

synonym: jester, harlequin, comedian

(1) a **clown** act, (2) act as a **clown**

She dressed up as a Halloween **clown** with a rainbow wig and oversized red nose.

hypersexualized

adj. characterized by the excessive or exaggerated focus on or depiction of sexual activity, often for commercial or entertainment purposes

synonym: oversexualized, sexualized, eroticized

(1) **hypersexualized** culture, (2) **hypersexualized** marketing

The fashion industry has been criticized for **hypersexualized**

women's bodies in advertisements.

wench

n. (considered offensive and is generally not used in modern English) a young woman or girl, usually of low social status

synonym : girl, woman

(1) **wench** costume, (2) serving **wench**

The pirate ship had a **wench** who cooked meals for the crew and helped with the sails.

arrogant

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

synonym : haughty, supercilious, disdainful

(1) an **arrogant** attitude, (2) grow **arrogant**

He was so **arrogant** that he thought he was always right.

dandy

n. a man who is excessively fastidious in his dress and manner; (adjective) very good

synonym : fop, dapper, (adjective) excellent

(1) in a **dandy** manner, (2) fine and **dandy**

He was a positive **dandy** and always dressed in the finest clothing.

antic

adj. ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing

synonym : comical, whimsical, capricious

(1) **antic** disposition, (2) comedic **antic**

The children's **antics** made everyone laugh.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym : unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

buffoon

n. a foolish or clumsy person, especially one who amuses others by making funny faces or behaving in a silly way

synonym : clown, jester, fool

(1) **buffoon** comedian, (2) **buffoon** character

The court jester was a famous **buffoon** at the king's parties.

wildfire

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

synonym : blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

applaud

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

synonym : clap, celebrate, praise

(1) **applaud** his courage, (2) **applaud** the orchestra

I enthusiastically **applaud** my rival's achievement.

humanize

v. to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans

synonym : civilize, personalize

(1) **humanize** my pet, (2) **humanize** a room

The charity event aims to **humanize** the homeless rather than treat them as mere statistics.

ridicule

n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

synonym : derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

abolitionist

n. a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust

synonym : antislavery activist, emancipator, liberator

(1) slavery **abolitionist**, (2) women's rights **abolitionist**

Harriet Tubman was a well-known **abolitionist** who fought for the freedom of enslaved people.

filthy

adj. dirty or unclean, often to an extreme or offensive degree; morally offensive or obscene

synonym : dirty, grimy, soiled

(1) **filthy** streets, (2) **filthy** language

The hotel room was **filthy** with dirty sheets and stained carpets.

scum

n. a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups

synonym : dregs, slime, filth

(1) bathtub **scum**, (2) **scum** of the earth

The **scum** on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.

complexion

n. the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face

synonym : appearance, color, hue

(1) **complexion** cream, (2) dull **complexion**

Her skincare routine paid off, as her **complexion** was glowing and healthy-looking.

fraternal

adj. relating to or like a brother or brothers; (of twins) derived from two separate fertilized ova (= the female reproductive cell)

synonym : brotherly, congenial, biovular

(1) **fraternal** twins, (2) a **fraternal** association

He recommended that they take out **fraternal** life insurance.

indelible

adj. cannot be removed, erased, or forgot

synonym: enduring, lasting, unforgettable

(1) an **indelible** ink, (2) an **indelible** disgrace

She left an **indelible** mark on our country's literature.

imprint

v. to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone

synonym: impress, stamp, engrave

(1) DNA **imprint**, (2) **imprint** a memory

He wanted to **imprint** his brand logo on the product.

psyche

n. the human soul, mind, or spirit

synonym: mind, soul, spirit

(1) deep **psyche**, (2) **psyche** healing

The therapist helped her understand the workings of her **psyche** and how to cope with her anxiety.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

circulate

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym: flow, disperse, rotate

(1) **circulate** a rumor, (2) **circulate** an agenda before the meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

vaudeville

n. a type of variety show that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, featuring a mix of comedy,

music, dance, and other forms of entertainment; often characterized by a series of short acts or sketches performed by different performers

synonym: variety show, burlesque, comedy

(1) **vaudeville** comedian, (2) classic **vaudeville**

The **vaudeville** show had the audience in stitches with its comedic acts.

supremacy

n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

synonym: dominance, superiority, preeminence

(1) a race for **supremacy**, (2) **supremacy** of a country

The empire's military power ensured its **supremacy** over the neighboring states.

inferiority

n. the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others

synonym: lower status, low self-esteem, inadequacy

(1) **inferiority** complex, (2) **inferiority** mindset

The professor's scathing comments left the student with a sense of **inferiority** about their work.

haunt

v. to frequent or visit repeatedly, often in a way that is disturbing or unsettling; to occupy or fill the mind, often in a way that is unpleasant or persistent

synonym: stalk, spook, obsess

(1) **haunt** memories, (2) **haunt** my conscience

The crowd's boos and jeers continued to **haunt** the performer long after the show ended.

impersonate

v. to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire

synonym: imitate, mimic, copy

(1) **impersonate** a government official, (2) **impersonate** a character

The comedian is famous for his ability to **impersonate** famous politicians.

segregation

n. the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

synonym: isolation, separation, discrimination

(1) racial **segregation**, (2) **segregation** of power

Segregation based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.

reappear

v. to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time

synonym: come again, repeat, re-emerge

(1) **reappear** on the surface, (2) **reappear** throughout this book

Cancer has **reappeared** at the same site.

grotesque

adj. bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre

synonym: bizarre, deformed, monstrous

(1) have **grotesque** design, (2) **grotesque** appearance

The **grotesque** sculpture made me feel uneasy.

infiltrate

v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

synonym: penetrate, sneak in, invade

(1) **infiltrate** the bloodstream, (2) **infiltrate** a community

The spy was able to **infiltrate** the enemy's headquarters undetected.

ingrained

adj. deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

synonym: inborn, embedded, deep-seated

(1) **ingrained** habit, (2) **ingrained** prejudice

Her fear of dogs was **ingrained** after a traumatic experience in childhood.

subjugate

v. to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority

synonym: conquer, subdue, enslave

(1) **subjugate** the enemy, (2) **subjugate** my ego

The conqueror sought to **subjugate** the defeated country.

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym: represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

synonym: eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain

That work **perpetuates** his fame.

impersonation

n. the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes

synonym: imitation, caricature, portrayal

(1) criminal **impersonation**, (2) **impersonation** act

His **impersonation** of the popular actor at the party was spot-on.

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.

dismantle

v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

synonym: take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

synonym: antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

Session 2: Spelling

1. an__c disposition *adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
2. exa_____te in degree *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
3. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
4. ha__t my conscience *v.* to frequent or visit repeatedly, often in a way that is disturbing or unsettling; to occupy or fill the mind, often in a way that is unpleasant or persistent
5. comedic pa____y *n.* a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature or music designed to ridicule or criticize the original work
6. traveling mi_____el *n.* historically, a medieval poet, musician, or performer who traveled from place to place, often entertaining audiences with music, song, and poetry; a performer or entertainer who performs traditional or folk music, storytelling, or other forms of performance art
7. ha__t memories *v.* to frequent or visit repeatedly, often in a way that is disturbing or unsettling; to occupy or fill the mind, often in a way that is unpleasant or persistent
8. em__e a wedding *n.* (a short for MC, a master of ceremonies) who introduces speakers, performers, or entertainers and keeps the event moving smoothly; (verb) to act as the master of ceremonies or a host of an event, typically by introducing performers, speakers, or other participants and helping to keep the event organized and flowing smoothly

ANSWERS: 1. antic, 2. exaggerate, 3. confuse, 4. haunt, 5. parody, 6. minstrel, 7. haunt, 8. emcee

9. brief in_____de *n.* a period of time between two events or periods of activity, often marked by a pause or break; a brief entertainment or performance between two larger acts or events
10. su_____te my ego *v.* to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority
11. a race for su_____cy *n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
12. im_____t a memory *v.* to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; *(noun)* a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone
13. di_____le a system *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
14. grow ar_____nt *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
15. per_____te chronic pain *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
16. inf_____te the bloodstream *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

ANSWERS: 9. interlude, 10. subjugate, 11. supremacy, 12. imprint, 13. dismantle, 14. arrogant, 15. perpetuate, 16. infiltrate

17. inf_____ty mindset *n.* the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
18. slavery abo_____ist *n.* a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust
19. public ri_____le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
20. s__m of the earth *n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
21. a cl__n act *n.* a performer, typically in a circus, who wears distinctive makeup and costumes and plays practical jokes, and performs tricks or stunts to entertain audiences
22. hu_____ze my pet *v.* to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans
23. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

ANSWERS: 17. inferiority, 18. abolitionist, 19. ridicule, 20. scum, 21. clown, 22. humanize, 23. illiterate

24. ap____d the orchestra *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
25. fi___y language *adj.* dirty or unclean, often to an extreme or offensive degree; morally offensive or obscene
26. em___y my goal *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
27. re____ar throughout this book *v.* to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time
28. ex_____ve ocean views *adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
29. criminal imp_____ion *n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes
30. fi___y streets *adj.* dirty or unclean, often to an extreme or offensive degree; morally offensive or obscene
31. creep dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
32. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
33. su_____te the enemy *v.* to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority
34. pa___y imitation *n.* a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature or music designed to ridicule or criticize the original work

ANSWERS: 24. applaud, 25. filthy, 26. embody, 27. reappear, 28. expansive, 29. impersonation, 30. filthy, 31. downstairs, 32. humiliate, 33. subjugate, 34. parody

35. racial seg_____on *n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
36. bu_____n comedian *n.* a foolish or clumsy person, especially one who amuses others by making funny faces or behaving in a silly way
37. sn__k out of danger *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
38. arson-caused wi_____re *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
39. an in_____le ink *adj.* cannot be removed, erased, or forgot
40. inf_____ty complex *n.* the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
41. ps___e healing *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
42. sn__k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
43. talented em___e *n.* (a short for MC, a master of ceremonies) who introduces speakers, performers, or entertainers and keeps the event moving smoothly; (verb) to act as the master of ceremonies or a host of an event, typically by introducing performers, speakers, or other participants and helping to keep the event organized and flowing smoothly

ANSWERS: 35. segregation, 36. buffoon, 37. sneak, 38. wildfire, 39. indelible, 40. inferiority, 41. psyche, 42. sneak, 43. emcee

44. bathtub s__m *n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
45. int_____se exclamation marks *v.* to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
46. inf_____te a community *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
47. op_____s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
48. in a da__y manner *n.* a man who is excessively fastidious in his dress and manner; (adjective) very good
49. com_____on cream *n.* the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face
50. in_____ed prejudice *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
51. hu_____ze a room *v.* to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans

ANSWERS: 44. scum, 45. intersperse, 46. infiltrate, 47. oppress, 48. dandy, 49. complexion, 50. ingrained, 51. humanize

58. imp_____te a government official *v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire
59. the riddle st__ped everybody *v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
60. c__k flooring *n.* a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper
61. dull com_____on *n.* the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face
62. ci_____te a rumor *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
63. bl_____ce makeup *n.* (considered offensive) a form of theatrical makeup used to portray a negative and stereotypical caricature of black people, often involving the use of darkening makeup on the face
64. int_____se his speech *v.* to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
65. per_____te a myth *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time

ANSWERS: 58. impersonate, 59. stump, 60. cork, 61. complexion, 62. circulate, 63. blackface, 64. intersperse, 65. perpetuate

66. we__h costume *n.* (considered offensive and is generally not used in modern English) a young woman or girl, usually of low social status
67. an ar_____nt attitude *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
68. ap_____d his courage *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
69. serving we__h *n.* (considered offensive and is generally not used in modern English) a young woman or girl, usually of low social status
70. ci_____te an agenda before the meeting *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
71. find an int_____tor *n.* a person who participates in a conversation or dialogue; a person who speaks or converses with another
72. exa_____te story *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
73. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
74. hyp_____zed marketing *adj.* characterized by the excessive or exaggerated focus on or depiction of sexual activity, often for commercial or entertainment purposes
75. blonde w_g *n.* a head covering made of synthetic or real hair worn for a variety of reasons, including as a fashion accessory, to conceal hair loss or baldness, or as part of a costume

ANSWERS: 66. wench, 67. arrogant, 68. applaud, 69. wench, 70. circulate, 71. interlocutor, 72. exaggerate, 73. confuse, 74. hypersexualized, 75. wig

76. mi____el show *n.* historically, a medieval poet, musician, or performer who traveled from place to place, often entertaining audiences with music, song, and poetry; a performer or entertainer who performs traditional or folk music, storytelling, or other forms of performance art
77. act as a cl__n *n.* a performer, typically in a circus, who wears distinctive makeup and costumes and plays practical jokes, and performs tricks or stunts to entertain audiences
78. an in_____le disgrace *adj.* cannot be removed, erased, or forgot
79. classic vau_____le *n.* a type of variety show that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, featuring a mix of comedy, music, dance, and other forms of entertainment; often characterized by a series of short acts or sketches performed by different performers
80. su_____cy of a country *n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
81. escort him dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
82. imp_____te a character *v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire
83. em___y a spirit of charity *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

ANSWERS: 76. minstrel, 77. clown, 78. indelible, 79. vaudeville, 80. supremacy, 81. downstairs, 82. impersonate, 83. embody

84. speak with an int_____tor *n.* a person who participates in a conversation or dialogue; a person who speaks or converses with another
85. ri_____le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
86. bu_____n character *n.* a foolish or clumsy person, especially one who amuses others by making funny faces or behaving in a silly way
87. negative ste_____pes *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
88. hyp_____zed culture *adj.* characterized by the excessive or exaggerated focus on or depiction of sexual activity, often for commercial or entertainment purposes
89. musical in_____de *n.* a period of time between two events or periods of activity, often marked by a pause or break; a brief entertainment or performance between two larger acts or events
90. op_____s the people with force *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

ANSWERS: 84. interlocutor, 85. ridicule, 86. buffoon, 87. stereotype, 88. hypersexualized, 89. interlude, 90. oppress

91. DNA im____t
- v. to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone
92. a fr_____al association
- adj.* relating to or like a brother or brothers; (of twins) derived from two separate fertilized ova (= the female reproductive cell)
93. re_____ar on the surface
- v. to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time
94. fr_____al twins
- adj.* relating to or like a brother or brothers; (of twins) derived from two separate fertilized ova (= the female reproductive cell)
95. comedic an__c
- adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
96. with an ex_____ve spirit
- adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
97. we are st__ped with the problem
- v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
98. in_____ed habit
- adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

ANSWERS: 91. imprint, 92. fraternal, 93. reappear, 94. fraternal, 95. antic, 96. expansive, 97. stump, 98. ingrained

99. bl_____ce performance *n.* (considered offensive) a form of theatrical makeup used to portray a negative and stereotypical caricature of black people, often involving the use of darkening makeup on the face
100. women's rights abo_____ist *n.* a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust
101. fine and da__y *n.* a man who is excessively fastidious in his dress and manner; (adjective) very good
102. di_____le a machine *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
103. gr_____ue appearance *adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
104. comedy s__t *n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
105. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
106. imp_____ion act *n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes

ANSWERS: 99. blackface, 100. abolitionist, 101. dandy, 102. dismantle, 103. grotesque, 104. skit, 105. humiliate, 106. impersonation

107. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
108. have gr_____ue design *adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
109. deep ps___e *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
110. seg_____on of power *n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

ANSWERS: 107. illiterate, 108. grotesque, 109. psyche, 110. segregation

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The pirate ship had a _____ who cooked meals for the crew and helped with the sails.
 - n.* (considered offensive and is generally not used in modern English) a young woman or girl, usually of low social status

2. The fashion industry has been criticized for _____ women's bodies in advertisements.
 - adj.* characterized by the excessive or exaggerated focus on or depiction of sexual activity, often for commercial or entertainment purposes

3. She decided to wear a pink ____ to the costume party.
 - n.* a head covering made of synthetic or real hair worn for a variety of reasons, including as a fashion accessory, to conceal hair loss or baldness, or as part of a costume

4. I enthusiastically _____ my rival's achievement.
 - v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

5. Her remarks _____ the debate.
 - v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

6. Her fear of dogs was _____ after a traumatic experience in childhood.
 - adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

7. The comedian is famous for his ability to _____ famous politicians.
 - v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire

ANSWERS: 1. wench, 2. hypersexualized, 3. wig, 4. applaud, 5. confused, 6. ingrained, 7. impersonate

8. She left an _____ mark on our country's literature.

adj. cannot be removed, erased, or forgot

9. _____ based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.

n. the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

10. He is _____ with the question.

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

11. The fan _____ the air in the room quickly.

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

12. Her skincare routine paid off, as her _____ was glowing and healthy-looking.

n. the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face

13. Historically, many countries have often _____ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

14. That work _____ his fame.

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

15. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

ANSWERS: 8. indelible, 9. Segregation, 10. stumped, 11. circulates, 12. complexion, 13. oppressed, 14. perpetuates, 15. stereotypes

16. He recommended that they take out _____ life insurance.

adj. relating to or like a brother or brothers; (of twins) derived from two separate fertilized ova (= the female reproductive cell)

17. The _____ sculpture made me feel uneasy.

adj. bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre

18. The use of _____ in entertainment is widely regarded as offensive and inappropriate.

n. (considered offensive) a form of theatrical makeup used to portray a negative and stereotypical caricature of black people, often involving the use of darkening makeup on the face

19. The radio show _____ interviewed the celebrity guest about their latest project

n. (a short for MC, a master of ceremonies) who introduces speakers, performers, or entertainers and keeps the event moving smoothly; (verb) to act as the master of ceremonies or a host of an event, typically by introducing performers, speakers, or other participants and helping to keep the event organized and flowing smoothly

20. His _____ of the popular actor at the party was spot-on.

n. the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes

21. The _____ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

22. He was so _____ that he thought he was always right.

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

ANSWERS: 16. fraternal, 17. grotesque, 18. blackface, 19. emcee, 20. impersonation, 21. wildfire, 22. arrogant

23. She _____ the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.
- v. to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
24. Cancer has _____ at the same site.
- v. to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time
25. The crowd's boos and jeers continued to _____ the performer long after the show ended.
- v. to frequent or visit repeatedly, often in a way that is disturbing or unsettling; to occupy or fill the mind, often in a way that is unpleasant or persistent
26. 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
27. The empire's military power ensured its _____ over the neighboring states.
- n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
28. The conqueror sought to _____ the defeated country.
- v. to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority
29. The author _____ anecdotes throughout the book to break up the text and make it more engaging.
- v. to scatter or distribute among or between other things; to insert or place something at intervals
30. She used a _____ board to display her favorite photographs.
- n. a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper

ANSWERS: 23. exaggerated, 24. reappeared, 25. haunt, 26. expansive, 27. supremacy, 28. subjugate, 29. interspersed, 30. cork

31. The movie was a _____ of classic horror films.
- n.* a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature or music designed to ridicule or criticize the original work
32. The _____ between acts allowed the audience to stretch their legs and chat.
- n.* a period of time between two events or periods of activity, often marked by a pause or break; a brief entertainment or performance between two larger acts or events
33. The children's _____ made everyone laugh.
- adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
34. The hotel room was _____ with dirty sheets and stained carpets.
- adj.* dirty or unclean, often to an extreme or offensive degree; morally offensive or obscene
35. The children tried to _____ out and eat the candy.
- v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
36. He wanted to _____ his brand logo on the product.
- v.* to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone
37. She dressed up as a Halloween _____ with a rainbow wig and oversized red nose.
- n.* a performer, typically in a circus, who wears distinctive makeup and costumes and plays practical jokes, and performs tricks or stunts to entertain audiences

ANSWERS: 31. parody, 32. interlude, 33. antics, 34. filthy, 35. sneak, 36. imprint, 37. clown

38. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.
v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
39. She was my _____ facilitating the conversation between the two sides.
n. a person who participates in a conversation or dialogue; a person who speaks or converses with another
40. The _____ on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.
n. a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
41. The court jester was a famous _____ at the king's parties.
n. a foolish or clumsy person, especially one who amuses others by making funny faces or behaving in a silly way
42. The professor's scathing comments left the student with a sense of _____ about their work.
n. the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
43. The charity event aims to _____ the homeless rather than treat them as mere statistics.
v. to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans
44. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

ANSWERS: 38. embody, 39. interlocutor, 40. scum, 41. buffoon, 42. inferiority, 43. humanize, 44. humiliated

45. The _____ show had the audience in stitches with its comedic acts.
- n.* a type of variety show that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, featuring a mix of comedy, music, dance, and other forms of entertainment; often characterized by a series of short acts or sketches performed by different performers
46. Harriet Tubman was a well-known _____ who fought for the freedom of enslaved people.
- n.* a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust
47. The _____ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.
- n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
48. The king often hired a _____ to entertain him and his court with music and stories.
- n.* historically, a medieval poet, musician, or performer who traveled from place to place, often entertaining audiences with music, song, and poetry; a performer or entertainer who performs traditional or folk music, storytelling, or other forms of performance art
49. Please get the desk _____.
- adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
50. The old building had to be _____ because it was structurally unsound.
- v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

ANSWERS: 45. vaudeville, 46. abolitionist, 47. ridicule, 48. minstrel, 49. downstairs, 50. dismantled

51. The comedy group performed a hilarious _____ about life in quarantine.
- n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
52. The therapist helped her understand the workings of her _____ and how to cope with her anxiety.
- n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
53. The spy was able to _____ the enemy's headquarters undetected.
- v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
54. He was a positive _____ and always dressed in the finest clothing.
- n.* a man who is excessively fastidious in his dress and manner; (adjective) very good
55. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
- adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

ANSWERS: 51. skit, 52. psyche, 53. infiltrate, 54. dandy, 55. illiterate