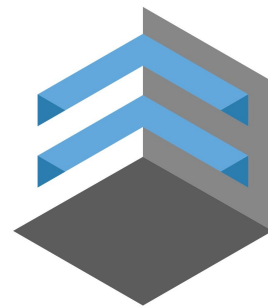


Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jodie Houlston-Lau: How to make a sad story funny | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

veteran

n. a person who has had long experience in a particular area or activity

synonym: expert, pro, vet

(1) A 20-year **veteran** in the industry, (2) **veteran** teacher
The **veteran** soldiers have the role of teaching recruits the stringencies of training.

process

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

synonym: procedure, method, system

(1) **process** improvement, (2) decision-making **process**
The **process** for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

devastation

n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

synonym: destruction, ruin, havoc

(1) financial **devastation**, (2) **devastation** to life
The economic recession caused **devastation** in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

wit	<p><i>n.</i> the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: humor, comedy, funniness</p> <p>(1) the wit of man, (2) full of wit</p> <p>He has the wit to keep talking about this topic.</p>
confine	<p><i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: restrict, limit, contain</p> <p>(1) confine themselves solely, (2) confine the scope of use</p> <p>The animal was confined in a small cage.</p>
intergalactic	<p><i>adj.</i> existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: extragalactic, cosmic, interstellar</p> <p>(1) intergalactic travel, (2) intergalactic matter</p> <p>The intergalactic spaceship traveled to distant planets.</p>
estranged	<p><i>adj.</i> separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: alienated, distant, estrous</p> <p>(1) estranged relationship, (2) become estranged</p> <p>After years of not speaking to each other, the estranged family members finally reunited.</p>
fraught	<p><i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: tense, anxious, stressed</p> <p>(1) become increasingly fraught, (2) fraught with danger</p> <p>The negotiations were fraught with challenges and setbacks.</p>
reunion	<p><i>n.</i> a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again</p> <p><i>synonym</i>: social gathering, alum association</p> <p>(1) a class reunion, (2) the annual reunion of the alum</p>

I will attend my college **reunion** tomorrow.

mumble

v. to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately

synonym: murmur, mutter, whisper

(1) **mumble** a reply, (2) **mumble** under your breath

She tended to **mumble** when she was nervous or unsure of herself.

counterintuitive

adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

synonym: unreasonable, paradoxical, nonsensical

(1) **counterintuitive** results, (2) **counterintuitive** behavior

The **counterintuitive** nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.

comedy

n. a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment

synonym: humor, farce, satire

(1) **comedy** series, (2) romantic **comedy**

I love going to see live **comedy** shows with my friends.

emotion

n. a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others

synonym: feeling, sentiment, passion

(1) control my **emotion**, (2) afraid to show **emotion**

Some **emotions** are common across cultures and backgrounds.

genre

n. a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics

synonym: type, category, style

(1) **genre** of music, (2) a literary **genre**

He is known for creating **genre-busting** paintings.

evoke

v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind

synonym: arouse, raise, inspire

(1) **evoke** a sense of awe, (2) **evoke** sympathy

This movie is likely to **evoke** strong emotions in the viewer.

grief

n. a very great sadness, especially when somebody dies

synonym: anguish, desperation, dismay

(1) have **grief** and sorrow, (2) a lot of **grief**

Each person has a unique **grief** experience.

excitement

n. a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness

synonym: thrill, exhilaration, incitement

(1) the **excitement** in the business world, (2) aesthetic **excitement**

The **excitement** of the upcoming concert was palpable among the crowd.

exposed

adj. having no protection or shield from something, such as bad weather, attack, or criticism

synonym: endangered, revealed, disclosed

(1) **exposed** to radiation, (2) an **exposed** rock

Tech companies often employ **exposed** ducts and other materials in their office interiors.

sensitize

v. to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation

synonym: acclimate, sensitize, alert

(1) **sensitize** the immune system, (2) **sensitize** cells to radiation

We need to **sensitize** our staff to the needs of customers with disabilities.

comic

adj. funny and making you laugh

synonym: amusing, funny, humorous

(1) **comic** books, (2) a **comic** hat

The novel is **comic** and tragic.

relief

n. a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced

synonym: remedy, consolation, alleviation

(1) tax **relief**, (2) sigh of **relief**

He devoted his life to establishing a humanitarian **relief** fund.

tried-and-true

adj. proven or tested through experience or practice; established as reliable or effective over time; often used to describe methods, techniques, or products that are known to work well

synonym: proven, reliable, trustworthy

(1) **tried-and-true** strategy, (2) **tried-and-true** recipe

The **tried-and-true** method of baking cookies has been passed down through generations of family recipes.

vary

v. to become different in terms of size, shape, etc.

synonym: alter, contrast, differ

(1) **vary** according to the age, (2) **vary** directly with the price

Maximum heart rates **vary** a lot for each individual.

emotional

adj. relating to people's feelings

synonym: affecting, impactful, impressive

(1) **emotional** health, (2) **emotional** distress

Human **emotional** responses vary widely depending on the society to which they belong.

compelling

adj. arousing strong and irresistible interest, attention, or admiration

synonym: tempting, captivating, influential

(1) tell a **compelling** story, (2) new and **compelling** evidence

His **compelling** presentation deeply moved everyone.

combination

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

synonym: blend, hybrid, compounding

(1) genic **combinations**, (2) **combination** number

The **combination** to the safe was a secret.

contrast

v. to put in opposition to show or emphasize differences

synonym: differ, vary, counterpoint

(1) **contrast** with a decade ago, (2) **contrast** two things

It's intriguing to compare and **contrast** the two authors.

crucial

adj. extremely vital or necessary

synonym: essential, pivotal, vital

(1) **crucial** information, (2) a **crucial** issue for women

The revitalization of technology companies is **crucial** to the country's growth.

epic

n. a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive

synonym: legendary, mythical, classical

(1) heroic **epic**, (2) **epic** battle

The military **epic** between the two armies was one for the history books.

ancient

adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

synonym: archaic, age-old, obsolete

(1) pre-Christian **ancient**, (2) **ancient** stories

They have been living near water since **ancient** times.

tale

n. a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure

synonym: canard, fiction, fable

(1) a fairy **tale**, (2) **tale** of horror

Ghosts in folk **tales** are almost always malicious.

climax

n. the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance

synonym: finale, pinnacle, apex

(1) emotional **climax**, (2) reach a **climax**

The **climax** of the movie had everyone on the edge of their seats.

subvert

v. to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within

synonym: overthrow, undermine, sabotage

(1) **subvert** power, (2) **subvert** expectations

The rebels could **subvert** the government's plans by leaking classified information.

respite

n. a brief period of rest, relief, or delay from something difficult or unpleasant; a short break or vacation from regular activities or responsibilities

synonym: break, interval, pause

(1) **respite** care, (2) a short **respite**

The vacation gave her a much-needed **respite** from work.

modern

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times

synonym: contemporary, stylish, current

(1) **modern** poetry, (2) pre- **modern** agricultural society

Their headquarters are in a **modern** skyscraper.

mood

n. the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind

synonym: mindset, disposition, temper

(1) the **mood** in a room, (2) in an ugly **mood**

His gaffe spoiled the **mood** of the dinner party.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

comply

v. to obey an order, set of rules, or request

synonym: follow, abide by, adhere to

(1) **comply** with a code, (2) fully **comply** with all laws

The public schools **comply** with federal standards.

bartender

n. a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar

synonym: barman, mixologist, server

(1) professional **bartender**, (2) moonlight as a **bartender**

The chief **bartender** mixed the ingredients to create a new and exciting cocktail.

quest

n. a long or challenging search for something

synonym: exploration, inquisition, pursuit

(1) the **quest** for truth, (2) on a **quest** for happiness

That adventurer traveled in **quest** of buried treasure.

nuanced

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

synonym: fine, subtle, slight

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

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

resolve

v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

synonym: decide, determine, fix

(1) **resolve** a dispute, (2) **resolve** the computer error

This company **resolves** its battery problem completely.

graver

n. a tool used for engraving or carving hard materials such as stone or metal; a person who carves or engraves; (adjective) more serious or important than something else

synonym: burin, chisel, engraving tool

(1) **graver** marker, (2) **graver** mistake

The blacksmith used a **graver** to inscribe his name on the forged iron gate.

sidekick

n. a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion

synonym: companion, helper, ally

(1) a detective's **sidekick**, (2) his best friend's **sidekick**

The superhero's **sidekick** was always there to help him.

sneaky

adj. behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness

synonym: sly, crafty, deceitful

(1) **sneaky** tactics, (2) **sneaky** behavior

The **sneaky** thief slipped into the house through an unlocked window.

perceptive

adj. having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments

synonym: insightful, observant, discerning

(1) **perceptive** comment, (2) **perceptive** reader

Her **perceptive** eye caught on to the subtle details in the artwork that others had missed.

simultaneously

adv. at the same time

synonym: concurrently, coincidentally, together

(1) **simultaneously** affected, (2) take several inputs
simultaneously

Two students answered the teacher's question
simultaneously.

blunder

n. mistake; the act of making a foolish error

synonym: mistake, error, goof

(1) a capital **blunder**, (2) make a **blunder** in my work

The CEO's **blunder** in the meeting cost the company millions.

hapless

adj. having no luck; unfortunate

synonym: unfortunate, unlucky, pitiable

(1) her **hapless** fate, (2) **hapless** situation

The **hapless** victim had no way to defend themselves.

punchline

n. the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax

synonym: joke, climax, comedic ending

(1) have no **punchline**, (2) the final **punchline**

The **punchline** of the joke was hilarious.

continuously

adv. without being interrupted or paused; repeatedly

synonym: constantly, frequently, always

(1) use one thing **continuously**, (2) **continuously** removed

The country's domestic coal consumption has been **continuously** declining for decades.

alternate

adj. occurring or existing one after the other regularly

synonym: substitute, back up, equivalent

(1) **alternate** choice, (2) every **alternate** year

The cleaning lady comes on **alternate** Wednesdays.

horrific

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

synonym: terrifying, alarming, shocking

(1) **horrific** experience, (2) **horrific** condition

The accident scene was **horrific**, with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.

wacky

adj. funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way

synonym: absurd, eccentric, ludicrous

(1) **wacky** value, (2) **wacky** plan for selling more books

His friend was a pretty wild and **wacky** character.

fiction

n. the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true

synonym: fantasy, fable, invention

(1) stuff of science **fiction**, (2) non- **fiction** bestseller
Truth is stranger than **fiction**.

dialogue

n. a conversation in a book, play, or film

synonym: conversation, discussion, talk

(1) Platonic **dialogues**, (2) the form of a **dialogue**
He recorded the **dialogue** at the time of the incident.

unspeakable

adj. too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about

synonym: unspeakably horrible, indescribable, unutterable

(1) **unspeakable** crime, (2) **unspeakable** pain

The survivors of the plane crash could only describe the **unspeakable** horror of the experience.

highlight

v. to make something prominent, mainly so that people give it more attention

synonym: feature, emphasize, stress

(1) **highlight** a string in red, (2) **highlight** an important difference

The introduction **highlighted** the speaker's distinguished career as a consultant

arbitrary

adj. based on chance, or individual whim rather than any reason

synonym: autocratic, dictatorial, whimsical

(1) **arbitrary** size and shape, (2) the **arbitrary** rule of a dictator

He collected data to avoid **arbitrary** decisions.

suffer

v. to experience pain, distress, or hardship; to undergo or endure something painful or unpleasant

synonym: endure, undergo, tolerate

(1) **suffer** a setback, (2) **suffer** bad grades

The older man **suffers** from arthritis and finds it difficult to move around.

narrative

n. a story or a description of a series of events or process of telling a story

synonym: the tale, chronology, annals

(1) **narrative** poetry, (2) personal **narrative**

The **narrative** handles multiple plot lines and has unpredictable ends.

perspective

n. a confident attitude toward something; a particular style of thinking about something

synonym: viewpoint, standpoint, outlook

(1) a **perspective** view, (2) the **perspective** of the battle

His father's death changed his whole **perspective** on life.

infuse

v. to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue

synonym: instill, fill, permeate

(1) **infuse** with spirit, (2) **infuse** life with meaning

She **infused** fresh herbs into the soup for added flavor.

tragic

adj. causing great sadness or suffering; very unfortunate

synonym: calamitous, disastrous, catastrophic

(1) **tragic** love stories, (2) **tragic** death

The **tragic** events of the war left many families torn apart.

poignant

adj. evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching

synonym: touching, moving, emotional

(1) **poignant** moment, (2) **poignant** memories

The movie's **poignant** ending left most of the audience in tears.

humor

n. the quality of being amusing or funny; the liquid parts of the body

synonym: comedy, funniness, liquid substance

(1) sardonic **humor**, (2) vitreous **humor**

My wife seems to be in ill **humor**.

funnel

n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

synonym: filter, chimney

(1) separatory **funnel**, (2) a **funnel-shaped** device

We have to use a **funnel** to pour petrol into the tank.

dynamics

n. the branch of mechanics that deals with the motion of bodies under the action of forces, including the particular case in which a body remains at rest; forces that produce or stimulate movement, growth, or change

synonym: mechanics, kinetics, kinematics

(1) **dynamics** of group, (2) **dynamics** of economy

The relationship **dynamics** between the two countries were complex and constantly changing.

chuckle

n. a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way

synonym: laugh, giggle, snicker

(1) **chuckle** at my cat's silly antics, (2) stifled **chuckle**

I couldn't help but let out a little **chuckle** when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.

recognition

n. the action or process of recognizing or being recognized, especially by remembering; an agreement that something is true or legal

synonym: acknowledgement, identification, credit

(1) **recognition** award, (2) joint **recognition**

He was given **recognition** for his outstanding work in the

field of medicine.

polite

adj. showing consideration, respect, or deference towards others; having good manners, civility, or courteous behavior

synonym: courteous, civil, respectful

(1) **polite** manners, (2) **polite** tone

It's important to be **polite** even when you disagree with someone.

ravel

v. to tangle or become entangled in threads or fibers; to unravel or separate the strands of a woven material; figuratively, to become confused or complicated; to unravel or fall apart

synonym: tangle, entangle, ensnare

(1) **ravel** stitch, (2) **ravel** out the problem

She tried to **ravel** the tangled yarn, but it was hopeless.

sausage

n. a type of meat product usually made from pork, beef, or poultry, chopped into small pieces, put in a long tube of skin, then cooked or served cold in thin slices

synonym: bratwurst, wurst, frankfurter

(1) beef **sausage**, (2) German **sausage**

The mother sliced off a piece of **sausage**.

unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

synonym: separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

pickle

n. vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation

synonym: jam, predicament, quagmire

(1) **pickle** a cucumber, (2) **pickle** barrel

The **pickle** must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.

monsoon

n. a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas

synonym: rainy season, deluge, downpour

(1) **monsoon** season, (2) **monsoon** current

The **monsoon** rains often bring relief to areas suffering from drought.

underscore

v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it

synonym: emphasize, underline, highlight

(1) **underscore** an important fact, (2) **underscore** the severity

That incident **underscored** the vulnerability of the national defense system.

powerless

adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

synonym: helpless, impotent, feeble

(1) **powerless** position, (2) **powerless** in the organization

During the hurricane, we felt **powerless** against the winds and rain.

splash

v. to cause liquid to scatter in irregular drops, especially with force

synonym: scatter, dash, gurgle

(1) **splash** water, (2) **splash** everywhere

The mountain was **splashed** with snow.

convey

- v. to express ideas, feelings, etc. so that it is known or understood by other people; to carry something from one place to another

synonym: communicate, transfer, deliver

(1) **convey** a complex idea, (2) **convey** goods by truck
An ironic remark often **conveys** an intended meaning obliquely.

assume

- v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance

synonym: guess, presume, suppose

(1) **assume** a lousy attitude to his boss, (2) **assume** an important role

The following example **assumes** that the capacity of each battery is the same.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. co____e the scope of use | <i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something |
| 2. po_____ss in the organization | <i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change |
| 3. t__e of horror | <i>n.</i> a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure |
| 4. use one thing con_____sly | <i>adv.</i> without being interrupted or paused; repeatedly |
| 5. v__y directly with the price | <i>v.</i> to become different in terms of size, shape, etc. |
| 6. an ex_____d rock | <i>adj.</i> having no protection or shield from something, such as bad weather, attack, or criticism |
| 7. romantic co____y | <i>n.</i> a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment |
| 8. in an ugly m__d | <i>n.</i> the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind |
| 9. financial dev_____on | <i>n.</i> the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale |
| 10. su____r bad grades | <i>v.</i> to experience pain, distress, or hardship; to undergo or endure something painful or unpleasant |

ANSWERS: 1. confine, 2. powerless, 3. tale, 4. continuously, 5. vary, 6. exposed, 7. comedy, 8. mood, 9. devastation, 10. suffer

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. pre-Christian an____t | <i>adj.</i> relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old |
| 12. mu____e under your breath | <i>v.</i> to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately |
| 13. re____e care | <i>n.</i> a brief period of rest, relief, or delay from something difficult or unpleasant; a short break or vacation from regular activities or responsibilities |
| 14. ex____d to radiation | <i>adj.</i> having no protection or shield from something, such as bad weather, attack, or criticism |
| 15. per____ve reader | <i>adj.</i> having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments |
| 16. na____ve poetry | <i>n.</i> a story or a description of a series of events or process of telling a story |
| 17. su____t expectations | <i>v.</i> to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within |
| 18. afraid to show em____n | <i>n.</i> a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others |
| 19. as____e a lousy attitude to his boss | <i>v.</i> to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance |

ANSWERS: 11. ancient, 12. mumble, 13. respite, 14. exposed, 15. perceptive, 16. narrative, 17. subvert, 18. emotion, 19. assume

20. em_____al health	<i>adj.</i> relating to people's feelings
21. uns_____le crime	<i>adj.</i> too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about
22. con_____sly removed	<i>adv.</i> without being interrupted or paused; repeatedly
23. pre-mo____n agricultural society	<i>adj.</i> of or belonging to the present time or recent times
24. tax re____f	<i>n.</i> a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced
25. ra__l out the problem	<i>v.</i> to tangle or become entangled in threads or fibers; to unravel or separate the strands of a woven material; figuratively, to become confused or complicated; to unravel or fall apart
26. hi_____ht a string in red	<i>v.</i> to make something prominent, mainly so that people give it more attention
27. po_____nt memories	<i>adj.</i> evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
28. am_____y a signal	<i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
29. e__c battle	<i>n.</i> a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive
30. an_____t stories	<i>adj.</i> relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

ANSWERS: 20. emotional, 21. unspeakable, 22. continuously, 23. modern, 24. relief, 25. ravel, 26. highlight, 27. poignant, 28. amplify, 29. epic, 30. ancient

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 31. hi_____ht an important difference | <i>v.</i> to make something prominent, mainly so that people give it more attention |
| 32. mo___n poetry | <i>adj.</i> of or belonging to the present time or recent times |
| 33. am_____y the effect | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 34. po___e tone | <i>adj.</i> showing consideration, respect, or deference towards others; having good manners, civility, or courteous behavior |
| 35. sigh of re___f | <i>n.</i> a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced |
| 36. a literary ge__e | <i>n.</i> a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics |
| 37. uns_____le pain | <i>adj.</i> too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about |
| 38. a capital bl_____r | <i>n.</i> mistake; the act of making a foolish error |
| 39. un_____l a knit | <i>v.</i> undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it |
| 40. go there af_____rd | <i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned |
| 41. sn___y behavior | <i>adj.</i> behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness |
| 42. the final pu_____ne | <i>n.</i> the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax |

ANSWERS: 31. highlight, 32. modern, 33. amplify, 34. polite, 35. relief, 36. genre, 37. unspeakable, 38. blunder, 39. unravel, 40. afterward, 41. sneaky, 42. punchline

43. ev__e a sense of awe	<i>v.</i> to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
44. wa__y plan for selling more books	<i>adj.</i> funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way
45. the w_t of man	<i>n.</i> the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way
46. co___y a complex idea	<i>v.</i> to express ideas, feelings, etc. so that it is known or understood by other people; to carry something from one place to another
47. und_____re an important fact	<i>v.</i> to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
48. co_____e themselves solely	<i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something
49. mo_____n season	<i>n.</i> a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas
50. new and com_____ng evidence	<i>adj.</i> arousing strong and irresistible interest, attention, or admiration
51. have no pu_____ne	<i>n.</i> the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax
52. co___y series	<i>n.</i> a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment

ANSWERS: 43. evoke, 44. wacky, 45. wit, 46. convey, 47. underscore, 48. confine, 49. monsoon, 50. compelling, 51. punchline, 52. comedy

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| 53. German sa____e | <i>n.</i> a type of meat product usually made from pork, beef, or poultry, chopped into small pieces, put in a long tube of skin, then cooked or served cold in thin slices |
| 54. joint rec_____on | <i>n.</i> the action or process of recognizing or being recognized, especially by remembering; an agreement that something is true or legal |
| 55. ha____s situation | <i>adj.</i> having no luck; unfortunate |
| 56. cr____l information | <i>adj.</i> extremely vital or necessary |
| 57. become es_____ed | <i>adj.</i> separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection |
| 58. tri_____rue recipe | <i>adj.</i> proven or tested through experience or practice; established as reliable or effective over time; often used to describe methods, techniques, or products that are known to work well |
| 59. co____y goods by truck | <i>v.</i> to express ideas, feelings, etc. so that it is known or understood by other people; to carry something from one place to another |
| 60. a fairy t__e | <i>n.</i> a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure |
| 61. sardonic hu__r | <i>n.</i> the quality of being amusing or funny; the liquid parts of the body |

ANSWERS: 53. sausage, 54. recognition, 55. hapless, 56. crucial, 57. estranged, 58. tried-and-true, 59. convey, 60. tale, 61. humor

62. have gr__f and sorrow	<i>n.</i> a very great sadness, especially when somebody dies
63. the m__d in a room	<i>n.</i> the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind
64. tell a com_____ng story	<i>adj.</i> arousing strong and irresistible interest, attention, or admiration
65. se_____ze cells to radiation	<i>v.</i> to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation
66. tr___c love stories	<i>adj.</i> causing great sadness or suffering; very unfortunate
67. pi___e barrel	<i>n.</i> vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
68. genic com_____ons	<i>n.</i> a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
69. rec_____on award	<i>n.</i> the action or process of recognizing or being recognized, especially by remembering; an agreement that something is true or legal
70. the exc_____nt in the business world	<i>n.</i> a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness
71. a few years af_____rd	<i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned
72. decision-making pr_____s	<i>n.</i> a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

ANSWERS: 62. grief, 63. mood, 64. compelling, 65. sensitize, 66. tragic, 67. pickle,

68. combination, 69. recognition, 70. excitement, 71. afterward, 72. process

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| 73. beef sa____e | <i>n.</i> a type of meat product usually made from pork, beef, or poultry, chopped into small pieces, put in a long tube of skin, then cooked or served cold in thin slices |
| 74. separatory fu___l | <i>n.</i> a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine |
| 75. control my em____n | <i>n.</i> a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others |
| 76. em____al distress | <i>adj.</i> relating to people's feelings |
| 77. vitreous hu__r | <i>n.</i> the quality of being amusing or funny; the liquid parts of the body |
| 78. ho____ic experience | <i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying |
| 79. ge__e of music | <i>n.</i> a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics |
| 80. dy____cs of economy | <i>n.</i> the branch of mechanics that deals with the motion of bodies under the action of forces, including the particular case in which a body remains at rest; forces that produce or stimulate movement, growth, or change |
| 81. wa__y value | <i>adj.</i> funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way |
| 82. aesthetic exc____nt | <i>n.</i> a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness |

ANSWERS: 73. sausage, 74. funnel, 75. emotion, 76. emotional, 77. humor, 78. horrific, 79. genre, 80. dynamics, 81. wacky, 82. excitement

83. the ar_____ry rule of a dictator	<i>adj.</i> based on chance, or individual whim rather than any reason
84. stuff of science fi_____n	<i>n.</i> the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
85. moonlight as a ba_____er	<i>n.</i> a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar
86. mu____e a reply	<i>v.</i> to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
87. non-fi_____n bestseller	<i>n.</i> the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
88. a short re_____e	<i>n.</i> a brief period of rest, relief, or delay from something difficult or unpleasant; a short break or vacation from regular activities or responsibilities
89. the form of a di_____ue	<i>n.</i> a conversation in a book, play, or film
90. po____e manners	<i>adj.</i> showing consideration, respect, or deference towards others; having good manners, civility, or courteous behavior
91. the qu__t for truth	<i>n.</i> a long or challenging search for something
92. int_____tic travel	<i>adj.</i> existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
93. the annual re_____n of the alum	<i>n.</i> a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again

ANSWERS: 83. arbitrary, 84. fiction, 85. bartender, 86. mumble, 87. fiction, 88. respite, 89. dialogue, 90. polite, 91. quest, 92. intergalactic, 93. reunion

94. her ha____s fate	<i>adj.</i> having no luck; unfortunate
95. on a qu__t for happiness	<i>n.</i> a long or challenging search for something
96. nu____d view	<i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
97. ch____e at my cat's silly antics	<i>n.</i> a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way
98. sn____y tactics	<i>adj.</i> behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness
99. mo____n current	<i>n.</i> a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas
100. gr____r mistake	<i>n.</i> a tool used for engraving or carving hard materials such as stone or metal; a person who carves or engraves; (adjective) more serious or important than something else
101. A 20-year ve____n in the industry	<i>n.</i> a person who has had long experience in a particular area or activity
102. pi____e a cucumber	<i>n.</i> vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
103. dev____on to life	<i>n.</i> the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
104. the per____ve of the battle	<i>n.</i> a confident attitude toward something; a particular style of thinking about something

ANSWERS: 94. hapless, 95. quest, 96. nuanced, 97. chuckle, 98. sneaky, 99. monsoon, 100. graver, 101. veteran, 102. pickle, 103. devastation, 104. perspective

105. su____t power *v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
106. es_____ed relationship *adj.* separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection
107. the common but nu____d opinion *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
108. reach a cl____x *n.* the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance
109. emotional cl____x *n.* the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance
110. un_____l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
111. in____e with spirit *v.* to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue
112. und_____re the severity *v.* to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
113. int_____tic matter *adj.* existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)

ANSWERS: 105. subvert, 106. estranged, 107. nuanced, 108. climax, 109. climax, 110. unravel, 111. infuse, 112. underscore, 113. intergalactic

114. per_____ve comment	<i>adj.</i> having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments
115. ve_____n teacher	<i>n.</i> a person who has had long experience in a particular area or activity
116. heroic e__c	<i>n.</i> a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive
117. cou_____ive results	<i>adj.</i> contrary to what common sense would suggest
118. become increasingly fr_____t	<i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
119. take several inputs sim_____sly	<i>adv.</i> at the same time
120. se_____ze the immune system	<i>v.</i> to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation
121. in___e life with meaning	<i>v.</i> to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue
122. dy_____cs of group	<i>n.</i> the branch of mechanics that deals with the motion of bodies under the action of forces, including the particular case in which a body remains at rest; forces that produce or stimulate movement, growth, or change
123. personal na_____ve	<i>n.</i> a story or a description of a series of events or process of telling a story

ANSWERS: 114. perceptive, 115. veteran, 116. epic, 117. counterintuitive, 118. fraught, 119. simultaneously, 120. sensitize, 121. infuse, 122. dynamics, 123. narrative

124. co____st with a decade ago	<i>v.</i> to put in opposition to show or emphasize differences
125. make a bl____r in my work	<i>n.</i> mistake; the act of making a foolish error
126. sim_____sly affected	<i>adv.</i> at the same time
127. fully co____y with all laws	<i>v.</i> to obey an order, set of rules, or request
128. tr____c death	<i>adj.</i> causing great sadness or suffering; very unfortunate
129. po_____ss position	<i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
130. every al_____te year	<i>adj.</i> occurring or existing one after the other regularly
131. professional ba_____er	<i>n.</i> a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar
132. ev__e sympathy	<i>v.</i> to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
133. full of w_t	<i>n.</i> the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way
134. his best friend's si_____ck	<i>n.</i> a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion
135. as____e an important role	<i>v.</i> to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
136. sp____h water	<i>v.</i> to cause liquid to scatter in irregular drops, especially with force

ANSWERS: 124. contrast, 125. blunder, 126. simultaneously, 127. comply, 128. tragic, 129. powerless, 130. alternate, 131. bartender, 132. evoke, 133. wit, 134. sidekick, 135. assume, 136. splash

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| 137. fr____t with danger | <i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress |
| 138. gr____r marker | <i>n.</i> a tool used for engraving or carving hard materials such as stone or metal; a person who carves or engraves; (adjective) more serious or important than something else |
| 139. v__y according to the age | <i>v.</i> to become different in terms of size, shape, etc. |
| 140. a lot of gr__f | <i>n.</i> a very great sadness, especially when somebody dies |
| 141. pr____s improvement | <i>n.</i> a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products |
| 142. a cr____l issue for women | <i>adj.</i> extremely vital or necessary |
| 143. co____y with a code | <i>v.</i> to obey an order, set of rules, or request |
| 144. ra__l stitch | <i>v.</i> to tangle or become entangled in threads or fibers; to unravel or separate the strands of a woven material; figuratively, to become confused or complicated; to unravel or fall apart |
| 145. su____r a setback | <i>v.</i> to experience pain, distress, or hardship; to undergo or endure something painful or unpleasant |

ANSWERS: 137. fraught, 138. graver, 139. vary, 140. grief, 141. process, 142. crucial, 143. comply, 144. ravel, 145. suffer

146. co____st two things	<i>v.</i> to put in opposition to show or emphasize differences
147. sp____h everywhere	<i>v.</i> to cause liquid to scatter in irregular drops, especially with force
148. a class re____n	<i>n.</i> a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again
149. cou_____ive behavior	<i>adj.</i> contrary to what common sense would suggest
150. ho____ic condition	<i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
151. co__c books	<i>adj.</i> funny and making you laugh
152. a per_____ve view	<i>n.</i> a confident attitude toward something; a particular style of thinking about something
153. a co__c hat	<i>adj.</i> funny and making you laugh
154. com_____on number	<i>n.</i> a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
155. a detective's si____ck	<i>n.</i> a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion
156. a fu____l-shaped device	<i>n.</i> a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

ANSWERS: 146. contrast, 147. splash, 148. reunion, 149. counterintuitive, 150. horrific, 151. comic, 152. perspective, 153. comic, 154. combination, 155. sidekick, 156. funnel

157. Platonic di____ues	<i>n.</i> a conversation in a book, play, or film
158. re____e the computer error	<i>v.</i> to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
159. tri_____rue strategy	<i>adj.</i> proven or tested through experience or practice; established as reliable or effective over time; often used to describe methods, techniques, or products that are known to work well
160. al_____te choice	<i>adj.</i> occurring or existing one after the other regularly
161. po____nt moment	<i>adj.</i> evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
162. stifled ch____e	<i>n.</i> a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way
163. ar_____ry size and shape	<i>adj.</i> based on chance, or individual whim rather than any reason
164. re____e a dispute	<i>v.</i> to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

ANSWERS: 157. dialogue, 158. resolve, 159. tried-and-true, 160. alternate, 161. poignant, 162. chuckle, 163. arbitrary, 164. resolve

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My wife seems to be in ill _____.
n. the quality of being amusing or funny; the liquid parts of the body
2. His _____ presentation deeply moved everyone.
adj. arousing strong and irresistible interest, attention, or admiration
3. I love going to see live _____ shows with my friends.
n. a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment
4. This movie is likely to _____ strong emotions in the viewer.
v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
5. Truth is stranger than _____.
n. the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
6. This company _____ its battery problem completely.
v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
7. The chief _____ mixed the ingredients to create a new and exciting cocktail.
n. a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar
8. He recorded the _____ at the time of the incident.
n. a conversation in a book, play, or film

ANSWERS: 1. humor, 2. compelling, 3. comedy, 4. evoke, 5. fiction, 6. resolves, 7. bartender, 8. dialogue

9. The _____ of the joke was hilarious.

n. the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax

10. The _____ victim had no way to defend themselves.

adj. having no luck; unfortunate

11. The _____ soldiers have the role of teaching recruits the stringencies of training.

n. a person who has had long experience in a particular area or activity

12. He has the ____ to keep talking about this topic.

n. the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way

13. The _____ events of the war left many families torn apart.

adj. causing great sadness or suffering; very unfortunate

14. It's intriguing to compare and _____ the two authors.

v. to put in opposition to show or emphasize differences

15. His gaffe spoiled the _____ of the dinner party.

n. the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind

16. The accident scene was _____ with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

17. His friend was a pretty wild and _____ character.

adj. funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way

ANSWERS: 9. punchline, 10. hapless, 11. veteran, 12. wit, 13. tragic, 14. contrast, 15. mood, 16. horrific, 17. wacky

18. The animal was _____ in a small cage.

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something

19. We need to _____ our staff to the needs of customers with disabilities.

v. to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation

20. The _____ thief slipped into the house through an unlocked window.

adj. behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness

21. The novel is _____ and tragic.

adj. funny and making you laugh

22. After years of not speaking to each other, the _____ family members finally reunited.

adj. separated or alienated from someone or something that was once familiar or close; emotionally detached or distant due to a breakdown in a relationship or connection

23. The relationship _____ between the two countries were complex and constantly changing.

n. the branch of mechanics that deals with the motion of bodies under the action of forces, including the particular case in which a body remains at rest; forces that produce or stimulate movement, growth, or change

24. Some _____ are common across cultures and backgrounds.

n. a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others

ANSWERS: 18. confined, 19. sensitize, 20. sneaky, 21. comic, 22. estranged, 23. dynamics, 24. emotions

25. Their headquarters are in a _____ skyscraper.

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times

26. The _____ nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.

adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

27. Human _____ responses vary widely depending on the society to which they belong.

adj. relating to people's feelings

28. The CEO's _____ in the meeting cost the company millions.

n. mistake; the act of making a foolish error

29. The negotiations were _____ with challenges and setbacks.

adj. causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress

30. It's important to be _____ even when you disagree with someone.

adj. showing consideration, respect, or deference towards others; having good manners, civility, or courteous behavior

31. He was given _____ for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.

n. the action or process of recognizing or being recognized, especially by remembering; an agreement that something is true or legal

32. The older man _____ from arthritis and finds it difficult to move around.

v. to experience pain, distress, or hardship; to undergo or endure something painful or unpleasant

ANSWERS: 25. modern, 26. counterintuitive, 27. emotional, 28. blunder, 29. fraught, 30. polite, 31. recognition, 32. suffers

33. That incident _____ the vulnerability of the national defense system.
v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
34. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.
adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
35. The _____ method of baking cookies has been passed down through generations of family recipes.
adj. proven or tested through experience or practice; established as reliable or effective over time; often used to describe methods, techniques, or products that are known to work well
36. The mother sliced off a piece of _____.
n. a type of meat product usually made from pork, beef, or poultry, chopped into small pieces, put in a long tube of skin, then cooked or served cold in thin slices
37. Two students answered the teacher's question _____.
adv. at the same time
38. We have to use a _____ to pour petrol into the tank.
n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
39. The _____ spaceship traveled to distant planets.
adj. existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
40. His father's death changed his whole _____ on life.
n. a confident attitude toward something; a particular style of thinking about something

ANSWERS: 33. underscored, 34. nuanced, 35. tried-and-true, 36. sausage, 37. simultaneously, 38. funnel, 39. intergalactic, 40. perspective

41. The country's domestic coal consumption has been _____ declining for decades.

adv. without being interrupted or paused; repeatedly

42. Maximum heart rates _____ a lot for each individual.

v. to become different in terms of size, shape, etc.

43. Each person has a unique _____ experience.

n. a very great sadness, especially when somebody dies

44. The _____ rains often bring relief to areas suffering from drought.

n. a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas

45. The military _____ between the two armies was one for the history books.

n. a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive

46. The _____ of the upcoming concert was palpable among the crowd.

n. a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness

47. The superhero's _____ was always there to help him.

n. a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion

48. The _____ of the movie had everyone on the edge of their seats.

n. the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance

ANSWERS: 41. continuously, 42. vary, 43. grief, 44. monsoon, 45. epic, 46. excitement, 47. sidekick, 48. climax

49. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
50. I will attend my college _____ tomorrow.
n. a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again
51. The following example _____ that the capacity of each battery is the same.
v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
52. The blacksmith used a _____ to inscribe his name on the forged iron gate.
n. a tool used for engraving or carving hard materials such as stone or metal; a person who carves or engraves; (adjective) more serious or important than something else
53. Tech companies often employ _____ ducts and other materials in their office interiors.
adj. having no protection or shield from something, such as bad weather, attack, or criticism
54. The public schools _____ with federal standards.
v. to obey an order, set of rules, or request
55. An ironic remark often _____ an intended meaning obliquely.
v. to express ideas, feelings, etc. so that it is known or understood by other people; to carry something from one place to another
56. He devoted his life to establishing a humanitarian _____ fund.
n. a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced

ANSWERS: 49. unravel, 50. reunion, 51. assumes, 52. graver, 53. exposed, 54. comply, 55. conveys, 56. relief

57. She tried to _____ the tangled yarn, but it was hopeless.

- v.* to tangle or become entangled in threads or fibers; to unravel or separate the strands of a woven material; figuratively, to become confused or complicated; to unravel or fall apart

58. The economic recession caused _____ in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

- n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

59. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

- adv.* after the time mentioned

60. The movie's _____ ending left most of the audience in tears.

- adj.* evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching

61. The survivors of the plane crash could only describe the _____ horror of the experience.

- adj.* too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about

62. She tended to _____ when she was nervous or unsure of herself.

- v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately

63. During the hurricane, we felt _____ against the winds and rain.

- adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

64. The _____ to the safe was a secret.

- n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

ANSWERS: 57. ravel, 58. devastation, 59. afterward, 60. poignant, 61. unspeakable, 62. mumble, 63. powerless, 64. combination

65. The _____ handles multiple plot lines and has unpredictable ends.

n. a story or a description of a series of events or process of telling a story

66. The _____ for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

67. They have been living near water since _____ times.

adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

68. You might need to _____ this point.

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

69. The revitalization of technology companies is _____ to the country's growth.

adj. extremely vital or necessary

70. The vacation gave her a much-needed _____ from work.

n. a brief period of rest, relief, or delay from something difficult or unpleasant; a short break or vacation from regular activities or responsibilities

71. He is known for creating _____ paintings.

n. a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics

72. The mountain was _____ with snow.

v. to cause liquid to scatter in irregular drops, especially with force

ANSWERS: 65. narrative, 66. process, 67. ancient, 68. amplify, 69. crucial, 70. respite, 71. genre-busting, 72. splashed

73. The rebels could _____ the government's plans by leaking classified information.

- v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within

74. The cleaning lady comes on _____ Wednesdays.

- adj.* occurring or existing one after the other regularly

75. He collected data to avoid _____ decisions.

- adj.* based on chance, or individual whim rather than any reason

76. I couldn't help but let out a little _____ when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.

- n.* a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way

77. Ghosts in folk _____ are almost always malicious.

- n.* a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure

78. The introduction _____ the speaker's distinguished career as a consultant

- v.* to make something prominent, mainly so that people give it more attention

79. She _____ fresh herbs into the soup for added flavor.

- v.* to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue

80. Her _____ eye caught on to the subtle details in the artwork that others had missed.

- adj.* having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments

ANSWERS: 73. subvert, 74. alternate, 75. arbitrary, 76. chuckle, 77. tales, 78. highlighted, 79. infused, 80. perceptive

81. The _____ must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.

- n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation

82. That adventurer traveled in _____ of buried treasure.

- n.* a long or challenging search for something

ANSWERS: 81. pickle, 82. quest