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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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

confine

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something

synonym: restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use

The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

intergalactic

adj. existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)

synonym: extragalactic, cosmic, interstellar

(1) **intergalactic** travel, (2) **intergalactic** matter

The **intergalactic** spaceship traveled to distant planets.

estranged

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

synonym: alienated, distant, estrous

(1) **estranged** relationship, (2) become **estranged**
After years of not speaking to each other, the **estranged** family members finally reunited.

fraught

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

synonym: tense, anxious, stressed

(1) become increasingly **fraught**, (2) **fraught** with danger
The negotiations were **fraught** with challenges and setbacks.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. 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 |
| 2. wa__y value | <i>adj.</i> funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way |
| 3. a capital bl____r | <i>n.</i> mistake; the act of making a foolish error |
| 4. 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 |
| 5. ho____ic condition | <i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying |
| 6. int______tic matter | <i>adj.</i> existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars) |
| 7. ev__e sympathy | <i>v.</i> to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind |
| 8. 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 |
| 9. wa__y plan for selling more books | <i>adj.</i> funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way |

ANSWERS: 1. funnel, 2. wacky, 3. blunder, 4. ravel, 5. horrific, 6. intergalactic, 7. evoke, 8. underscore, 9. wacky

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 10. fr____t with danger | <i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress |
| 11. und_____re the severity | <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 |
| 12. become increasingly fr____t | <i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress |
| 13. her ha____s fate | <i>adj.</i> having no luck; unfortunate |
| 14. 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 |
| 15. 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 |
| 16. make a bl____r in my work | <i>n.</i> mistake; the act of making a foolish error |
| 17. co_____e the scope of use | <i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something |
| 18. mo_____n current | <i>n.</i> a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas |
| 19. cou_____ive results | <i>adj.</i> contrary to what common sense would suggest |
| 20. 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 |

ANSWERS: 10. fraught, 11. underscore, 12. fraught, 13. hapless, 14. pickle, 15. chuckle, 16. blunder, 17. confine, 18. monsoon, 19. counterintuitive, 20. subvert

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 21. co____e themselves solely | <i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something |
| 22. 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 |
| 23. moonlight as a ba____er | <i>n.</i> a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar |
| 24. a few years af____rd | <i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned |
| 25. uns____le crime | <i>adj.</i> too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about |
| 26. uns____le pain | <i>adj.</i> too terrible, shocking, or distressing to speak about |
| 27. 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 |
| 28. go there af____rd | <i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned |
| 29. ha____s situation | <i>adj.</i> having no luck; unfortunate |
| 30. am____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 31. 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 |
| 32. 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 |

ANSWERS: 21. confine, 22. sausage, 23. bartender, 24. afterward, 25. unspeakable, 26. unspeakable, 27. respite, 28. afterward, 29. hapless, 30. amplify, 31. sausage, 32. perceptive

33. in___e with spirit	<i>v.</i> to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue
34. ho____ic experience	<i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
35. po_____ss in the organization	<i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
36. dev_____on to life	<i>n.</i> the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
37. 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
38. 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
39. po_____nt moment	<i>adj.</i> evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching
40. am_____y the effect	<i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
41. emotional cl___x	<i>n.</i> 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
42. 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

ANSWERS: 33. infuse, 34. horrific, 35. powerless, 36. devastation, 37. pickle, 38. chuckle, 39. poignant, 40. amplify, 41. climax, 42. perceptive

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|------------------------------|---|
| 43. int_____tic travel | <i>adj.</i> existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars) |
| 44. cou_____ive behavior | <i>adj.</i> contrary to what common sense would suggest |
| 45. reach a cl___x | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 46. 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 |
| 47. po_____nt memories | <i>adj.</i> evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving; deeply affecting or touching |
| 48. 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 |
| 49. financial dev_____on | <i>n.</i> the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale |
| 50. sn___y behavior | <i>adj.</i> behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness |
| 51. 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 |

ANSWERS: 43. intergalactic, 44. counterintuitive, 45. climax, 46. mumble, 47. poignant, 48. punchline, 49. devastation, 50. sneaky, 51. sidekick

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 52. 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 |
| 53. professional ba_____er | <i>n.</i> a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar |
| 54. the common but nu_____d opinion | <i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. |
| 55. 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 |
| 56. mo_____n season | <i>n.</i> a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas |
| 57. 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 |
| 58. su_____t power | <i>v.</i> to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within |
| 59. nu_____d view | <i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. |
| 60. 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 |

ANSWERS: 52. punchline, 53. bartender, 54. nuanced, 55. mumble, 56. monsoon, 57. respite, 58. subvert, 59. nuanced, 60. ravel

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 61. sn___y tactics | <i>adj.</i> behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness |
| 62. 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 |
| 63. es_____ed relationship | <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 |
| 64. un_____l a plot | <i>v.</i> undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it |
| 65. 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 |
| 66. un_____l a knit | <i>v.</i> undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it |
| 67. ev__e a sense of awe | <i>v.</i> to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind |
| 68. in___e life with meaning | <i>v.</i> to fill something with a particular quality, feeling, or influence; to imbue |
| 69. po_____ss position | <i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change |
| 70. 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 |

ANSWERS: 61. sneaky, 62. sensitize, 63. estranged, 64. unravel, 65. sidekick, 66. unravel, 67. evoke, 68. infuse, 69. powerless, 70. funnel

71. become es_____ed

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

72. se_____ze cells to radiation

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

ANSWERS: 71. estranged, 72. sensitize

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ spaceship traveled to distant planets.
adj. existing or occurring between different galaxies (= an independent group of stars)
2. 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
3. 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
4. The _____ victim had no way to defend themselves.
adj. having no luck; unfortunate
5. 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
6. The chief _____ mixed the ingredients to create a new and exciting cocktail.
n. a person who serves drinks, especially alcoholic beverages, at a bar
7. The _____ nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.
adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

ANSWERS: 1. intergalactic, 2. poignant, 3. mumble, 4. hapless, 5. subvert, 6. bartender, 7. counterintuitive

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

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

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

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

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

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

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

n. mistake; the act of making a foolish error

12. The negotiations were _____ with challenges and setbacks.

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

13. 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

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

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

15. 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

16. 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

ANSWERS: 8. sneaky, 9. powerless, 10. horrific, 11. blunder, 12. fraught, 13. climax, 14. infused, 15. respite, 16. monsoon

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.

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

21. 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

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

- adv.* after the time mentioned

23. 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

ANSWERS: 17. sensitize, 18. ravel, 19. pickle, 20. unravel, 21. funnel, 22. afterward, 23. punchline

24. 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
25. This movie is likely to _____ strong emotions in the viewer.
v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
26. 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
27. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
28. 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
29. The animal was _____ in a small cage.
v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
30. 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
31. 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

ANSWERS: 24. sausage, 25. evoke, 26. estranged, 27. amplify, 28. sidekick, 29. confined, 30. devastation, 31. chuckle

32. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.

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

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. 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

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

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

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

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

ANSWERS: 32. nuanced, 33. underscored, 34. perceptive, 35. wacky, 36. unspeakable