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Nick Bostrom: How civilization could destroy itself -- and 4 ways we could prevent it | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/nick_bostrom_how_civilization_could_destroy_itself_and_4_ways_we_could_prevent_it

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- urn** *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
synonym: vase, container, jar
(1) memorial **urn**, (2) **urn** decoration
The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an **urn**.
- invariably** *adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
synonym: consistently, always, uniformly
(1) **invariably** polite, (2) **invariably** correct
She **invariably** arrived at the office early each day.
- anarchy** *n.* a state of society without government or law
synonym: chaos, disorder, lawlessness
(1) **anarchy** in the classroom, (2) lapse into **anarchy**
The concept of **anarchy** has been used in literature, music, and other art forms to explore ideas about power, freedom, and rebellion.
- counterexample** *n.* an example that contradicts or disproves a given hypothesis or generalization; evidence or an instance

that renders an argument or statement invalid

synonym: refutation, counter-instance, disproof

(1) **counterexample** to the theory, (2) mathematical **counterexample**

The student provided a **counterexample** to the teacher's hypothesis, proving it untrue.

foresee

v. to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future

synonym: predict, anticipate, forecast

(1) **foresee** the consequences, (2) **foresee** challenges
I **foresee** a problem arising if we don't address this issue now.

fecundity

n. the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or creative works; fertility; productivity

synonym: fertility, fruitfulness, productivity

(1) **fecundity** rate, (2) high **fecundity**

The **fecundity** of the soil in this area is ideal for growing crops.

geoengineering

n. the study of finding ways to change the Earth's climate system, primarily to reduce global warming; deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system

(1) **geoengineering** technology, (2) **geoengineering** schemes

It is unclear what all of the potential consequences of **geoengineering** could be.

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

synonym : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym : horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym : enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

plutonium

n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts

synonym : Pu, radioactive metal

(1) **plutonium** reactor, (2) **plutonium** contamination

The disposal of **plutonium** waste is a major environmental challenge.

centrifuge

n. a machine that uses centrifugal force (= a type of inertial force that appears to act on an object moving in a

circular path and is directed away from the center) to separate substances of different densities, especially to separate liquids from solids

synonym: separator, extractor, spinner

(1) **centrifuge** tube, (2) ultra-high-speed **centrifuges**

The laboratory technician placed the blood samples in the **centrifuge** to separate the different components.

detonation

n. a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode

synonym: explosion, blast, burst

(1) accidental **detonation**, (2) **detonation** velocity

The **detonation** of the explosive was heard throughout the entire city.

apocalyptic

adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

synonym: fateful, prophetic, ominous

(1) **apocalyptic** event, (2) have **apocalyptic** overtones

The **apocalyptic** landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym: encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior

Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

warhead

n. the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation

synonym: payload, explosive

(1) **warhead** missile, (2) nuclear **warhead**

The missile launch was successful, and the **warhead** hit its

intended target.

emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

synonym: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

undetermined

n. not yet resolved or concluded; not decided; indefinite; lacking clear limits or boundaries; (of mathematics) cannot be calculated because it is dependent on unknown factors

synonym: uncertain, undecided, unresolved

(1) fever of **undetermined** origin, (2) **undetermined** coefficient

The cause of the accident is **undetermined** at this time.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

deterministic

adj. characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations

synonym: predictable, predetermined, certain

(1) **deterministic** approach, (2) **deterministic** system

The **deterministic** algorithm always produces the same result for a given input.

flint

n. a hard, gray stone that can produce sparks when struck with steel used historically to start fires; a type of

microcrystalline quartz used for making tools, weapons, and jewelry

synonym: hardstone, tinder, firestone

(1) **flint** tools, (2) the **flint** on my lighter

The archeologist found a **flint** arrowhead on the dig site.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym: agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

alarming

adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

synonym: forbidding, concerning, disturbing

(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics

The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.

synbio

n. (short for "synthetic biology") a field of science that combines biology and engineering to create new synthetic organisms or biological systems

synonym: synthetic biology, genetic engineering

(1) **synbio** research, (2) **synbio** engineering

Synbio technology allows scientists to create artificial life forms for various purposes.

cyberwarfare

n. the use of digital technologies, such as hacking, viruses, and other malicious tactics, to disrupt, damage, or

destroy computer systems, networks, and electronic devices, to cause harm to individuals, governments, or organizations

synonym: cyberattack, online warfare, digital warfare

(1) **cyberwarfare** defense, (2) **cyberwarfare** threats

Experts warn that **cyberwarfare** attacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated and difficult to detect.

bioweapon

n. a biological agent or toxin that is intentionally used as a weapon to cause harm or death to humans, animals, or plants and to disrupt social, economic, or political stability

synonym: biological weapon, germ warfare, bio-agent

(1) **bioweapon** research, (2) deploy **bioweapons**

Using insects or animals as a vector to spread diseases is a classical **bioweapon**.

isotope

n. a variation of an element that has the same number of protons in its nucleus but a different number of neutrons, resulting in a different atomic mass and often different physical or chemical properties

synonym: variant, nuclide, radioisotope

(1) radioactive **isotope**, (2) stable **isotope**

The **isotope** carbon-14 is commonly used in radiocarbon dating of fossils.

nuke

v. (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile

synonym: blast, bomb, attack

(1) **nuke** a city, (2) **nuke** missile

The government threatened to **nuke** the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym : draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**

A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

choke

v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

synonym : strangle, suffocate, clog

(1) **choke** with anger, (2) **choke** off the blood supply

The baby started to **choke** on a piece of apple.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

sociopath

n. a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"

synonym : psychopath, antisocial

(1) psychopathic **sociopath**, (2) narcissistic **sociopath**

The psychiatrist recognized signs of **sociopathy** in his patient's behavior.

incarcerate

v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

synonym : confine, detain, imprison

(1) **incarcerate** the murderer, (2) **incarcerate** her for life

He was **incarcerated** for the duration of the war.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym : bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune

Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

intercept

v. to stop and catch someone or something to prevent them from continuing to a destination

synonym: ambush, block, prevent

(1) **intercept** an enemy force, (2) **intercept** X rays

It is illegal to **intercept** police radio.

ubiquitous

adj. being or existing everywhere at once

synonym: universal, omnipresent, everywhere

(1) **ubiquitous** computing, (2) **ubiquitous** across ecosystems

Sugar is **ubiquitous** in food.

cataclysm

n. a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war

synonym: disaster, catastrophe, turmoil

(1) global **cataclysm**, (2) existential **cataclysm**

The earthquake was a **cataclysm** from which the local people never recovered.

reorganize

v. to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization

synonym: rearrange, reconstruct, reshuffle

(1) **reorganize** a department, (2) **reorganize** his debts

The new CEO was appointed to **reorganize** their business.

rove

v. to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area

synonym: wander, roam, traverse

(1) **rove** the globe, (2) **rove** the countryside

We decided to **rove** around the city to explore new

neighborhoods.

downside

n. the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure

synonym: drawback, negative, disadvantage

(1) major **downside**, (2) **downside** of globalization

The **downside** of the new policy was that it would be more expensive for customers.

tempting

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

synonym: alluring, attractive, inviting

(1) **tempting** offer, (2) sound very **tempting**

The chocolate cake was too **tempting** for me to resist.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

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.

catastrophe

n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

synonym: disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

optimist

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

synonym: positive thinker, dreamer, idealist

(1) **optimist** by nature, (2) excessive **optimist**

She is a confident **optimist** who always looks on the bright side.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym: astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cou_____ple to the theory *n.* an example that contradicts or disproves a given hypothesis or generalization; evidence or an instance that renders an argument or statement invalid
2. mo_____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
3. en____h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
4. geo_____ing technology *n.* the study of finding ways to change the Earth's climate system, primarily to reduce global warming; deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system
5. r__e the countryside *v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area
6. in_____pt X rays *v.* to stop and catch someone or something to prevent them from continuing to a destination
7. an_____y in the classroom *n.* a state of society without government or law
8. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
9. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 1. counterexample, 2. mosquito, 3. enrich, 4. geoengineering, 5. rove, 6. intercept, 7. anarchy, 8. rot, 9. determinant

10. fl__t tools *n.* a hard, gray stone that can produce sparks when struck with steel used historically to start fires; a type of microcrystalline quartz used for making tools, weapons, and jewelry
11. ga___e \$100 on the race *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
12. deploy bi_____ons *n.* a biological agent or toxin that is intentionally used as a weapon to cause harm or death to humans, animals, or plants and to disrupt social, economic, or political stability
13. di_____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
14. r__e the globe *v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area
15. accidental det_____on *n.* a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode
16. excessive op_____st *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
17. radioactive is_____e *n.* a variation of an element that has the same number of protons in its nucleus but a different number of neutrons, resulting in a different atomic mass and often different physical or chemical properties

ANSWERS: 10. flint, 11. gamble, 12. bioweapon, 13. disturb, 14. rove, 15. detonation, 16. optimist, 17. isotope

18. wa_____d missile *n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
19. u_n decoration *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
20. memorial u_n *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
21. al_____ng news *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
22. sound very te_____ng *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
23. ultra-high-speed cen_____ges *n.* a machine that uses centrifugal force (= a type of inertial force that appears to act on an object moving in a circular path and is directed away from the center) to separate substances of different densities, especially to separate liquids from solids
24. e__t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
25. te_____ng offer *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

ANSWERS: 18. warhead, 19. urn, 20. urn, 21. alarming, 22. tempting, 23. centrifuge, 24. emit, 25. tempting

26. the fl__t on my lighter *n.* a hard, gray stone that can produce sparks when struck with steel used historically to start fires; a type of microcrystalline quartz used for making tools, weapons, and jewelry
27. fo_____e the consequences *v.* to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future
28. inv_____ly correct *adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
29. op_____st by nature *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
30. ch__e with anger *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
31. in_____pt an enemy force *v.* to stop and catch someone or something to prevent them from continuing to a destination
32. avoid climate cat_____he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
33. have apo_____ic overtones *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
34. ga___e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
35. al_____ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

ANSWERS: 26. flint, 27. foresee, 28. invariably, 29. optimist, 30. choke, 31. intercept, 32. catastrophe, 33. apocalyptic, 34. gamble, 35. alarming

36. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
37. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
38. global ca_____sm *n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war
39. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
40. sy____o engineering *n.* (short for "synthetic biology") a field of science that combines biology and engineering to create new synthetic organisms or biological systems
41. det_____tic system *adj.* characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations
42. inc_____te her for life *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
43. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
44. bi_____on research *n.* a biological agent or toxin that is intentionally used as a weapon to cause harm or death to humans, animals, or plants and to disrupt social, economic, or political stability
45. geo_____ing schemes *n.* the study of finding ways to change the Earth's climate system, primarily to reduce global warming; deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system

ANSWERS: 36. catastrophe, 37. opportune, 38. cataclysm, 39. frightening, 40. synbio, 41. deterministic, 42. incarcerate, 43. doom, 44. bioweapon, 45. geoengineering

46. pl_____um reactor *n.* a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts
47. reo_____ze a department *v.* to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization
48. di_____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
49. inc_____te the murderer *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
50. fe_____ty rate *n.* the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or creative works; fertility; productivity
51. n__e a city *v.* (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile
52. cen_____ge tube *n.* a machine that uses centrifugal force (= a type of inertial force that appears to act on an object moving in a circular path and is directed away from the center) to separate substances of different densities, especially to separate liquids from solids
53. ch__e off the blood supply *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

ANSWERS: 46. plutonium, 47. reorganize, 48. disturb, 49. incarcerate, 50. fecundity, 51. nuke, 52. centrifuge, 53. choke

54. narcissistic so_____th *n.* a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"
55. dev_____on to life *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
56. stable is_____e *n.* a variation of an element that has the same number of protons in its nucleus but a different number of neutrons, resulting in a different atomic mass and often different physical or chemical properties
57. det_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations
58. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
59. nuclear wa_____d *n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
60. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
61. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

ANSWERS: 54. sociopath, 55. devastation, 56. isotope, 57. deterministic, 58. opportune, 59. warhead, 60. doom, 61. incentivize

62. financial dev_____on *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
63. do_____de of globalization *n.* the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure
64. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
65. the speaker's dr___e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
66. e___t air pollution *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
67. am___e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
68. major do_____de *n.* the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure
69. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
70. fo_____e challenges *v.* to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future
71. cyb_____are defense *n.* the use of digital technologies, such as hacking, viruses, and other malicious tactics, to disrupt, damage, or destroy computer systems, networks, and electronic devices, to cause harm to individuals, governments, or organizations

ANSWERS: 62. devastation, 63. downside, 64. determinant, 65. drone, 66. emit, 67. amaze, 68. downside, 69. rot, 70. foresee, 71. cyberwarfare

72. reo_____ze his debts *v.* to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization
73. architect's bl_____nt *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
74. lapse into an_____y *n.* a state of society without government or law
75. ubi_____us computing *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
76. cyb_____are threats *n.* the use of digital technologies, such as hacking, viruses, and other malicious tactics, to disrupt, damage, or destroy computer systems, networks, and electronic devices, to cause harm to individuals, governments, or organizations
77. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
78. bl_____nt for economic reform *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
79. existential ca_____sm *n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war
80. st_____ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
81. high fe_____ty *n.* the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or creative works; fertility; productivity
82. und_____ned coefficient *n.* not yet resolved or concluded; not decided; indefinite; lacking clear limits or boundaries; (of mathematics) cannot be calculated because it is dependent on unknown factors

ANSWERS: 72. reorganize, 73. blueprint, 74. anarchy, 75. ubiquitous, 76. cyberwarfare, 77. drone, 78. blueprint, 79. cataclysm, 80. stabilize, 81. fecundity, 82. undetermined

83. det _____ on velocity *n.* a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode
84. apo _____ ic event *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
85. n__e missile *v.* (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile
86. na _____ le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
87. locust sw__m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
88. a sw__m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
89. mathematical cou _____ ple *n.* an example that contradicts or disproves a given hypothesis or generalization; evidence or an instance that renders an argument or statement invalid
90. mo _____ to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

ANSWERS: 83. detonation, 84. apocalyptic, 85. nuke, 86. nanoscale, 87. swarm, 88. swarm, 89. counterexample, 90. mosquito

91. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
92. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
93. inv_____ly polite *adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
94. ubi_____us across ecosystems *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
95. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
96. sy___o research *n.* (short for "synthetic biology") a field of science that combines biology and engineering to create new synthetic organisms or biological systems
97. am___e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
98. psychopathic so_____th *n.* a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"
99. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
100. pl_____um contamination *n.* a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts

ANSWERS: 91. frightening, 92. stabilize, 93. invariably, 94. ubiquitous, 95. nanoscale, 96. synbio, 97. amaze, 98. sociopath, 99. incentivize, 100. plutonium

101. en___h public services

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

102. fever of und_____ned origin

n. not yet resolved or concluded; not decided; indefinite; lacking clear limits or boundaries; (of mathematics) cannot be calculated because it is dependent on unknown factors

ANSWERS: 101. enrich, 102. undetermined

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
2. The disposal of _____ waste is a major environmental challenge.
n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts
3. It is illegal to _____ police radio.
v. to stop and catch someone or something to prevent them from continuing to a destination
4. The baby started to _____ on a piece of apple.
v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
5. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
6. Using insects or animals as a vector to spread diseases is a classical _____.
n. a biological agent or toxin that is intentionally used as a weapon to cause harm or death to humans, animals, or plants and to disrupt social, economic, or political stability
7. The _____ algorithm always produces the same result for a given input.
adj. characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations

ANSWERS: 1. frightening, 2. plutonium, 3. intercept, 4. choke, 5. gamble, 6. bioweapon, 7. deterministic

8. The chocolate cake was too _____ for me to resist.

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

9. 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

10. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

11. The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an ____.

n. a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes

12. The psychiatrist recognized signs of _____ in his patient's behavior.

n. a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"

13. I _____ a problem arising if we don't address this issue now.

v. to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future

14. She is a confident _____ who always looks on the bright side.

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

15. The student provided a _____ to the teacher's hypothesis, proving it untrue.

n. an example that contradicts or disproves a given hypothesis or generalization; evidence or an instance that renders an argument or statement invalid

ANSWERS: 8. tempting, 9. devastation, 10. stabilizes, 11. urn, 12. sociopathy, 13. foresee, 14. optimist, 15. counterexample

16. The lack of funds has resulted in a _____ for our university system.
n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
17. The new CEO was appointed to _____ their business.
v. to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization
18. The concept of _____ has been used in literature, music, and other art forms to explore ideas about power, freedom, and rebellion.
n. a state of society without government or law
19. _____ technology allows scientists to create artificial life forms for various purposes.
n. (short for "synthetic biology") a field of science that combines biology and engineering to create new synthetic organisms or biological systems
20. The _____ carbon-14 is commonly used in radiocarbon dating of fossils.
n. a variation of an element that has the same number of protons in its nucleus but a different number of neutrons, resulting in a different atomic mass and often different physical or chemical properties
21. Sugar is _____ in food.
adj. being or existing everywhere at once
22. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
23. The _____ of the explosive was heard throughout the entire city.
n. a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode

ANSWERS: 16. catastrophe, 17. reorganize, 18. anarchy, 19. Synbio, 20. isotope, 21. ubiquitous, 22. opportune, 23. detonation

24. It is unclear what all of the potential consequences of _____ could be.
- n.* the study of finding ways to change the Earth's climate system, primarily to reduce global warming; deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system
25. The missile launch was successful, and the _____ hit its intended target.
- n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
26. The government threatened to _____ the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.
- v.* (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile
27. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.
- v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
28. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.
- v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
29. She _____ arrived at the office early each day.
- adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
30. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.
- n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
31. The archeologist found a _____ arrowhead on the dig site.
- n.* a hard, gray stone that can produce sparks when struck with steel used historically to start fires; a type of microcrystalline quartz used for making tools, weapons, and jewelry

ANSWERS: 24. geoengineering, 25. warhead, 26. nuke, 27. enriches, 28. incentivize, 29. invariably, 30. mosquitos, 31. flint

32. The earthquake was a _____ from which the local people never recovered.
- n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war
33. The _____ of the new policy was that it would be more expensive for customers.
- n.* the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure
34. The cause of the accident is _____ at this time.
- n.* not yet resolved or concluded; not decided; indefinite; lacking clear limits or boundaries; (of mathematics) cannot be calculated because it is dependent on unknown factors
35. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
- n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
36. The _____ landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.
- adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
37. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
- adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
38. Experts warn that _____ attacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated and difficult to detect.
- n.* the use of digital technologies, such as hacking, viruses, and other malicious tactics, to disrupt, damage, or destroy computer systems, networks, and electronic devices, to cause harm to individuals, governments, or organizations

ANSWERS: 32. cataclysm, 33. downside, 34. undetermined, 35. blueprint, 36. apocalyptic, 37. nanoscale, 38. cyberwarfare

39. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite _____.

adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

40. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

41. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

42. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

43. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

44. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

45. We decided to _____ around the city to explore new neighborhoods.

v. to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area

46. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

47. He was _____ for the duration of the war.

v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

ANSWERS: 39. alarming, 40. emits, 41. rot, 42. disturb, 43. determinant, 44. amazed, 45. rove, 46. doom, 47. incarcerated

48. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.
- n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
49. The _____ of the soil in this area is ideal for growing crops.
- n.* the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or creative works; fertility; productivity
50. The laboratory technician placed the blood samples in the _____ to separate the different components.
- n.* a machine that uses centrifugal force (= a type of inertial force that appears to act on an object moving in a circular path and is directed away from the center) to separate substances of different densities, especially to separate liquids from solids
51. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
- n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

ANSWERS: 48. swarm, 49. fecundity, 50. centrifuge, 51. drone