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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Karen Scrivener: A concrete idea to reduce carbon emissions | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

concrete

adj. existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement

synonym : actual, factual, hardened

(1) a **concrete** noun, (2) **concrete** examples

The president asked for a more **concrete** plan.

substance

n. the real physical material of which a thing or person consist; the most important or main part of some idea or experience; an illegal drug

synonym : essence, core, material

(1) an explosive **substance**, (2) **substance** abuse problem

The **substance** of the argument was well-presented.

environment

n. the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live

synonym : atmosphere, surroundings, climate

(1) **environment** affairs, (2) chaotic **environment**

Every human is responsible for taking care of the Earth's **environment**.

rank

n. a position in a hierarchy of status or authority; (verb) to take or have a position relative to others

synonym : position, status, standing

(1) **rank** amateur, (2) high **rank**

He was promoted to the **rank** of captain in the military.

emission

n. the act of production or sending out gas, heat, light, etc.

synonym : emanation, radiation, discharge

(1) global **emissions** of greenhouse gases, (2) the **emission** of light

There are five distinct **emissions** at five unique wavelengths.

intrinsically

adv. from the inherent nature or quality of something or arising from within

synonym : inherently, essentially, fundamentally

(1) **intrinsically** motivated, (2) **intrinsically** valuable

The kindness of strangers is **intrinsically** rewarding, even when no reward is expected.

steel

n. a strong metal alloy made up of iron with typically a few tenths of a percent of carbon used for making things that need a strong structure

synonym : iron

(1) magnetic **steel**, (2) **steel** beam

This bridge is the third largest **steel** bridge in the world.

brick

n. a rectangular block of baked clay used as a building material

synonym : block, tile, paver

(1) **brick** wall, (2) dressed **brick**

The wall was made of hard **bricks** that had been used for centuries.

enormous

adj. extremely large or great

synonym : huge, giant, gigantic

(1) **enormous** amount, (2) **enormous** potential

Shakespeare's output of poetry was **enormous**.

volume

n. the amount of space occupied by an object or substance; the magnitude of sound

synonym: capacity, amount, intensity

(1) **volume** of work, (2) high **volume**

This container has a **volume** of 10 cubic meters.

contribute

v. to give something, especially money or goods, to provide or achieve something together with other people

synonym: donate, devote, commit

(1) **contribute** a large sum of money to the fund,

(2) **contribute** to society

Government workers cannot **contribute** to political campaigns.

human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst

human-made disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

essential

adj. indispensable; fundamental

synonym: critical, crucial, basic

(1) **essential** amino acid, (2) **essential** commodities of life

Trial and error is an **essential** part of education.

dam

n. a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy

synonym: barricade, barrier, embankment

(1) **dam-building** program, (2) **dam** collapsing

The break in the **dam** threatened the valley.

carbon

n. a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals

(1) **carbon** dioxide, (2) **carbon** emission

Trees absorb **carbon** dioxide and give off oxygen.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

cement

v. make fast as if with cement; (noun) a building material that is a powder made of a mixture of calcined limestone and clay, used with water, sand, and small stones to make concrete

synonym: adhesive, glue

(1) **cement** a close relationship, (2) **cement** blend

They are eager to **cement** a positive reputation.

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.

limestone

n. a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

synonym: calcareous rock, chalk

(1) sheer **limestone** cliffs, (2) **limestone** pavement

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of **limestone**.

clay

n. a natural, earthy material that is made up of very small particles of minerals and can be molded when wet and then fired to produce ceramics

synonym: ceramics, pottery, dirt

(1) **clay** animation, (2) soft **clay** ground

The sculptor carefully molded the **clay** into the desired shape.

temperature

n. the degree of hotness or coldness of a thing or place
synonym: climate, warmth, degree

(1) extreme **temperatures**, (2) the atmospheric **temperature**

Cities around the world set records for highest **temperatures** this summer.

degree

n. a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment

synonym: level, qualification, diploma

(1) bachelor's **degree**, (2) **degree** centigrade

She received her **degree** in psychology from the university.

breakdown

n. a failure or collapse of a system or organization

synonym: collapse, failure, malfunction

(1) a nervous **breakdown**, (2) **breakdown** maintenance

The **breakdown** of the machinery caused a delay in production.

calcium

n. a chemical element with the symbol Ca and atomic number 20, which is an important mineral for the human body

synonym: Ca, lime, chalk

(1) **calcium** deficiency, (2) ion of **calcium**

The patient was prescribed a **calcium** supplement to help prevent osteoporosis.

carbonate

n. a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃

(1) sodium **carbonate**, (2) alkaline **carbonate**

The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium **carbonate**.

oxide

n. a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element

(1) silver **oxide**, (2) combined **oxide**

The blood's red coloring comes from iron **oxide**.

component

n. one of several parts that combines with others to form something bigger

synonym: element, part, factor

(1) key **component**, (2) spare **components** for cars

The researchers try to discover a common **component** in all types of successful organizations.

efficient

adj. performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials

synonym: productive, effective, competent

(1) **efficient** operation, (2) energy- **efficient** appliances

The new washing machine is much more **efficient** than the old one.

replace

v. to take the place of something

synonym: substitute, supersede, displace

(1) **replace** one word with another, (2) **replace** a phone

Eventually, the new design will **replace** all older models.

proportion

n. a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole

synonym: ratio, balance, consonance

(1) direct **proportion**, (2) a building of vast **proportions**

He is more concerned about the **proportion** of his body fat than usual because of an upcoming bodybuilding competition.

colleague

n. one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business

synonym: coworker, associate, fellow

(1) collaborate with **colleagues**, (2) former **colleague**

I decided to seek counseling on the advice of my **colleague**.

react

v. to take action in response to something

synonym: respond, reply, oppose

(1) **react** at a high temperature, (2) **react** against his way of thinking

How did he **react** to your idea?

calcine

v. to heat a material to a very high temperature to remove volatile substances and reduce it to a powder

synonym: burn, incinerate, roast

(1) **calcine** the clay, (2) **calcine** the samples

The chemist carefully **calcined** the limestone in a high-temperature furnace to create quicklime for the experiment.

decomposition

n. the process of breaking down organic matter into simpler substances through natural processes such as decay

synonym: decay, putrefaction, corruption

(1) **decomposition** process, (2) chemical **decomposition**

The **decomposition** of organic matter releases nutrients back into the soil.

equip

v. to provide a person or a place with the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity

synonym: prepare, furnish, provide

(1) **equip** an army, (2) **equip** our children with some special skills

The construction company **equipped** the building with an earthquake-resistant device.

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.

demonstrate

v. to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience

synonym: show, illustrate, display

(1) **demonstrate** a difference, (2) **demonstrate** mastery

How can you **demonstrate** that the earth is a sphere?

pervasive

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

synonym: extensive, ubiquitous, prevalent

(1) **pervasive** language, (2) the **pervasive** odor of garlic

Suspicion and worry were **pervasive** in our minds.

abundant

adj. present in great quantity

synonym: ample, plentiful, generative

(1) live an **abundant** life, (2) an **abundant** supply of water

The country has **abundant** oil and natural gas resources.

statistics

n. the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data

(1) **statistics** for cancer, (2) official **statistics**

The **statistics** demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.

commercialize

v. to make something available for sale or use on a large scale

synonym: monetize, capitalize, marketize

(1) **commercialize** my patents, (2) **commercialize** idea

The company is trying to **commercialize** its new product.

ivory

n. a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

synonym: elephant tusk, bone, tooth

(1) tower of **ivory**, (2) **ivory** carving

The intricate carvings on the **ivory** tusk were a work of art.

commit

v. to do something illegal or wrong

synonym: engage, carry out, execute

(1) **commit** suicide, (2) **commit** mistakes

The military has **committed** an abuse of human rights.

introduction

n. a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market

synonym: initiation, preamble, prologue

(1) **introduction** education, (2) self- **introduction**

The **introduction** to the new class was informative and engaging.

possibility

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

synonym: chance, prospect, likelihood

(1) **possibility** for growth, (2) **possibility** of a major earthquake

The **possibility** of getting the disease will drastically increase.

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.

confront

v. to face, meet or deal with a problem or difficult situation or person

synonym: engage, encounter, contend

(1) **confront** a global warming, (2) **confront** the issue

He finally decided to **confront** problems directly.

climate

n. the weather in a particular location averaged over some long period

synonym: atmosphere, weather, environment

(1) a cold **climate**, (2) effects of **climate** change

Climate and weather have an impact on every part of our lifestyles.

eliminate

v. to remove or get rid of someone or something

synonym: wipe out, destroy, eradicate

(1) **eliminate** contestants, (2) **eliminate** sexual barriers

We can **eliminate** this possibility from those consumptions.

Session 2: Spelling

1. tower of iv__y *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
2. eq__p an army *v.* to provide a person or a place with the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity
3. chaotic env_____nt *n.* the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live
4. int_____lly valuable *adv.* from the inherent nature or quality of something or arising from within
5. co__t mistakes *v.* to do something illegal or wrong
6. sheer li_____ne cliffs *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
7. el_____te contestants *v.* to remove or get rid of someone or something
8. extreme tem_____res *n.* the degree of hotness or coldness of a thing or place
9. r__k amateur *n.* a position in a hierarchy of status or authority; (verb) to take or have a position relative to others
10. com_____ize my patents *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale

ANSWERS: 1. ivory, 2. equip, 3. environment, 4. intrinsically, 5. commit, 6. limestone, 7. eliminate, 8. temperature, 9. rank, 10. commercialize

11. pos_____ty of a major earthquake *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
12. live an ab_____nt life *adj.* present in great quantity
13. a cold cl_____e *n.* the weather in a particular location averaged over some long period
14. pe_____ve language *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
15. magnetic st__l *n.* a strong metal alloy made up of iron with typically a few tenths of a percent of carbon used for making things that need a strong structure
16. iv__y carving *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
17. a nervous br_____wn *n.* a failure or collapse of a system or organization
18. br__k wall *n.* a rectangular block of baked clay used as a building material
19. chemical dec_____ion *n.* the process of breaking down organic matter into simpler substances through natural processes such as decay
20. ca___n dioxide *n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
21. energy-ef_____nt appliances *adj.* performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials

ANSWERS: 11. possibility, 12. abundant, 13. climate, 14. pervasive, 15. steel, 16. ivory, 17. breakdown, 18. brick, 19. decomposition, 20. carbon, 21. efficient

22. re__t at a high temperature *v.* to take action in response to something
23. ca____m deficiency *n.* a chemical element with the symbol Ca and atomic number 20, which is an important mineral for the human body
24. an ab____nt supply of water *adj.* present in great quantity
25. con____te a large sum of money to the fund *v.* to give something, especially money or goods, to provide or achieve something together with other people
26. direct pro____on *n.* a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
27. genic com____ons *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
28. re____e a phone *v.* to take the place of something
29. ce____t blend *v.* make fast as if with cement; (noun) a building material that is a powder made of a mixture of calcined limestone and clay, used with water, sand, and small stones to make concrete
30. pr____s improvement *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

ANSWERS: 22. react, 23. calcium, 24. abundant, 25. contribute, 26. proportion, 27. combination, 28. replace, 29. cement, 30. process

31. bachelor's de___e *n.* a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment
32. com_____ize idea *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
33. hum_____de climate change *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
34. effects of cl_____e change *n.* the weather in a particular location averaged over some long period
35. st__l beam *n.* a strong metal alloy made up of iron with typically a few tenths of a percent of carbon used for making things that need a strong structure
36. ce___t a close relationship *v.* make fast as if with cement; (noun) a building material that is a powder made of a mixture of calcined limestone and clay, used with water, sand, and small stones to make concrete
37. soft c__y ground *n.* a natural, earthy material that is made up of very small particles of minerals and can be molded when wet and then fired to produce ceramics
38. an explosive su_____ce *n.* the real physical material of which a thing or person consist; the most important or main part of some idea or experience; an illegal drug
39. high vo___e *n.* the amount of space occupied by an object or substance; the magnitude of sound

ANSWERS: 31. degree, 32. commercialize, 33. human-made, 34. climate, 35. steel, 36. cement, 37. clay, 38. substance, 39. volume

40. sta_____cs for cancer *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
41. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
42. key co_____nt *n.* one of several parts that combines with others to form something bigger
43. co_____nt a global warming *v.* to face, meet or deal with a problem or difficult situation or person
44. silver ox___e *n.* a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element
45. co_____te examples *adj.* existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement
46. con_____te to society *v.* to give something, especially money or goods, to provide or achieve something together with other people
47. the em_____on of light *n.* the act of production or sending out gas, heat, light, etc.
48. co_____nt the issue *v.* to face, meet or deal with a problem or difficult situation or person
49. int_____ion education *n.* a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market

ANSWERS: 40. statistics, 41. footprint, 42. component, 43. confront, 44. oxide, 45. concrete, 46. contribute, 47. emission, 48. confront, 49. introduction

50. ion of ca_____m *n.* a chemical element with the symbol Ca and atomic number 20, which is an important mineral for the human body
51. a building of vast pro_____ons *n.* a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
52. dressed br__k *n.* a rectangular block of baked clay used as a building material
53. br_____wn maintenance *n.* a failure or collapse of a system or organization
54. the pe_____ve odor of garlic *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
55. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
56. pos_____ty for growth *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
57. dec_____ion process *n.* the process of breaking down organic matter into simpler substances through natural processes such as decay
58. decision-making pr_____s *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
59. self-int_____ion *n.* a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market

ANSWERS: 50. calcium, 51. proportion, 52. brick, 53. breakdown, 54. pervasive, 55. footprint, 56. possibility, 57. decomposition, 58. process, 59. introduction

60. cr____l information *adj.* extremely vital or necessary
61. com_____on number *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
62. d_m-building program *n.* a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy
63. env_____nt affairs *n.* the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live
64. vo___e of work *n.* the amount of space occupied by an object or substance; the magnitude of sound
65. dem_____te mastery *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
66. collaborate with co_____ues *n.* one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business
67. spare co_____nts for cars *n.* one of several parts that combines with others to form something bigger
68. ca___n emission *n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
69. en___us potential *adj.* extremely large or great
70. the atmospheric tem_____re *n.* the degree of hotness or coldness of a thing or place
71. re__t against his way of thinking *v.* to take action in response to something

ANSWERS: 60. crucial, 61. combination, 62. dam, 63. environment, 64. volume, 65. demonstrate, 66. colleague, 67. component, 68. carbon, 69. enormous, 70. temperature, 71. react

72. li_____ne pavement *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
73. ca_____e the clay *v.* to heat a material to a very high temperature to remove volatile substances and reduce it to a powder
74. re_____e one word with another *v.* to take the place of something
75. former co_____ue *n.* one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business
76. the worst hum_____de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
77. official sta_____cs *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
78. global em_____ons of greenhouse gases *n.* the act of production or sending out gas, heat, light, etc.
79. d_m collapsing *n.* a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy
80. dem_____te a difference *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
81. de___e centigrade *n.* a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment
82. ca_____e the samples *v.* to heat a material to a very high temperature to remove volatile substances and reduce it to a powder

ANSWERS: 72. limestone, 73. calcine, 74. replace, 75. colleague, 76. human-made, 77. statistics, 78. emission, 79. dam, 80. demonstrate, 81. degree, 82. calcine

83. alkaline ca_____te *n.* a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃
84. es_____al amino acid *adj.* indispensable; fundamental
85. es_____al commodities of life *adj.* indispensable; fundamental
86. c__y animation *n.* a natural, earthy material that is made up of very small particles of minerals and can be molded when wet and then fired to produce ceramics
87. co____t suicide *v.* to do something illegal or wrong
88. a co_____te noun *adj.* existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement
89. high r__k *n.* a position in a hierarchy of status or authority; (verb) to take or have a position relative to others
90. sodium ca_____te *n.* a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃
91. su_____ce abuse problem *n.* the real physical material of which a thing or person consist; the most important or main part of some idea or experience; an illegal drug
92. en_____us amount *adj.* extremely large or great
93. int_____lly motivated *adv.* from the inherent nature or quality of something or arising from within
94. a cr_____l issue for women *adj.* extremely vital or necessary
95. ef_____nt operation *adj.* performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials

ANSWERS: 83. carbonate, 84. essential, 85. essential, 86. clay, 87. commit, 88. concrete, 89. rank, 90. carbonate, 91. substance, 92. enormous, 93. intrinsically, 94. crucial, 95. efficient

96. combined ox__e *n.* a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element
97. el_____te sexual barriers *v.* to remove or get rid of someone or something
98. eq__p our children with some special skills *v.* to provide a person or a place with the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity

ANSWERS: 96. oxide, 97. eliminate, 98. equip

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of the argument was well-presented.
n. the real physical material of which a thing or person consist; the most important or main part of some idea or experience; an illegal drug

2. How did he _____ to your idea?
v. to take action in response to something

3. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of _____.
n. a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

4. The patient was prescribed a _____ supplement to help prevent osteoporosis.
n. a chemical element with the symbol Ca and atomic number 20, which is an important mineral for the human body

5. There are five distinct _____ at five unique wavelengths.
n. the act of production or sending out gas, heat, light, etc.

6. The president asked for a more _____ plan.
adj. existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement

7. The military has _____ an abuse of human rights.
v. to do something illegal or wrong

8. The chemist carefully _____ the limestone in a high-temperature furnace to create quicklime for the experiment.
v. to heat a material to a very high temperature to remove volatile substances and reduce it to a powder

ANSWERS: 1. substance, 2. react, 3. limestone, 4. calcium, 5. emissions, 6. concrete, 7. committed, 8. calcined

9. He was promoted to the _____ of captain in the military.
- n.* a position in a hierarchy of status or authority; (verb) to take or have a position relative to others
10. This container has a _____ of 10 cubic meters.
- n.* the amount of space occupied by an object or substance; the magnitude of sound
11. The researchers try to discover a common _____ in all types of successful organizations.
- n.* one of several parts that combines with others to form something bigger
12. Every human is responsible for taking care of the Earth's _____.
- n.* the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live
13. The _____ demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.
- n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
14. The _____ of getting the disease will drastically increase.
- n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
15. This bridge is the third largest _____ bridge in the world.
- n.* a strong metal alloy made up of iron with typically a few tenths of a percent of carbon used for making things that need a strong structure
16. The blood's red coloring comes from iron _____.
- n.* a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element

ANSWERS: 9. rank, 10. volume, 11. component, 12. environment, 13. statistics, 14. possibility, 15. steel, 16. oxide

17. The _____ of organic matter releases nutrients back into the soil.
n. the process of breaking down organic matter into simpler substances through natural processes such as decay
18. The break in the ____ threatened the valley.
n. a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy
19. The _____ to the safe was a secret.
n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
20. He finally decided to _____ problems directly.
v. to face, meet or deal with a problem or difficult situation or person
21. I decided to seek counseling on the advice of my _____.
n. one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business
22. The company is trying to _____ its new product.
v. to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
23. The country has _____ oil and natural gas resources.
adj. present in great quantity
24. The _____ to the new class was informative and engaging.
n. a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market

ANSWERS: 17. decomposition, 18. dam, 19. combination, 20. confront, 21. colleague, 22. commercialize, 23. abundant, 24. introduction

25. Trees absorb _____ dioxide and give off oxygen.
- n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
26. _____ and weather have an impact on every part of our lifestyles.
- n.* the weather in a particular location averaged over some long period
27. He is more concerned about the _____ of his body fat than usual because of an upcoming bodybuilding competition.
- n.* a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
28. She received her _____ in psychology from the university.
- n.* a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment
29. The construction company _____ the building with an earthquake-resistant device.
- v.* to provide a person or a place with the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity
30. The intricate carvings on the _____ tusk were a work of art.
- n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
31. The kindness of strangers is _____ rewarding, even when no reward is expected.
- adv.* from the inherent nature or quality of something or arising from within

ANSWERS: 25. carbon, 26. Climate, 27. proportion, 28. degree, 29. equipped, 30. ivory, 31. intrinsically

32. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
- n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
33. Trial and error is an _____ part of education.
- adj.* indispensable; fundamental
34. Suspicion and worry were _____ in our minds.
- adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
35. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
- adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
36. We can _____ this possibility from those consumptions.
- v.* to remove or get rid of someone or something
37. The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium _____.
- n.* a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO_3
38. Shakespeare's output of poetry was _____.
- adj.* extremely large or great
39. They are eager to _____ a positive reputation.
- v.* make fast as if with cement; (noun) a building material that is a powder made of a mixture of calcined limestone and clay, used with water, sand, and small stones to make concrete
40. Cities around the world set records for highest _____ this summer.
- n.* the degree of hotness or coldness of a thing or place

ANSWERS: 32. footprint, 33. essential, 34. pervasive, 35. human-made, 36. eliminate, 37. carbonate, 38. enormous, 39. cement, 40. temperatures

41. Government workers cannot _____ to political campaigns.
v. to give something, especially money or goods, to provide or achieve something together with other people
42. 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
43. The wall was made of hard _____ that had been used for centuries.
n. a rectangular block of baked clay used as a building material
44. The sculptor carefully molded the _____ into the desired shape.
n. a natural, earthy material that is made up of very small particles of minerals and can be molded when wet and then fired to produce ceramics
45. Eventually, the new design will _____ all older models.
v. to take the place of something
46. The revitalization of technology companies is _____ to the country's growth.
adj. extremely vital or necessary
47. The _____ of the machinery caused a delay in production.
n. a failure or collapse of a system or organization
48. How can you _____ that the earth is a sphere?
v. to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience

ANSWERS: 41. contribute, 42. process, 43. bricks, 44. clay, 45. replace, 46. crucial, 47. breakdown, 48. demonstrate

49. The new washing machine is much more _____ than the old one.

adj. performing at the highest level of productivity with the least wasted effort or resources; capable of achieving maximum output with minimum wasted effort, time, or materials

ANSWERS: 49. efficient