

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jeff Dekofsky: *The most colorful gemstones on Earth*  
| TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jeff\\_dekofsky\\_the\\_most\\_colorful\\_gemstones\\_on\\_earth](https://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_dekofsky_the_most_colorful_gemstones_on_earth)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### auspicious

*adj.* a situation or event that is marked by potential success, favorable circumstances, or good fortune; a period that is believed to be a sign of favorable outcomes or prosperity

*synonym* : propitious, favorable, promising

(1) **auspicious** timing, (2) **auspicious** sign

The **auspicious** start to the new year brought hope for better times ahead.

### miner

*n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

*synonym* : digger, excavator, miner

(1) **miner** strike, (2) **miner** industry

The coal **miner** worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

### lunatic

*n.* a person who is considered mentally ill, especially one who is extremely irrational or unpredictable; a crazy or foolish person

*synonym* : maniac, crazy, insane

(1) raving **lunatic**, (2) a lone **lunatic**

The politician's outrageous comments made him appear like a **lunatic** to his opponents.

## opal

*n.* a mineral consisting of hydrated silica that is often iridescent and comes in a variety of colors; a gemstone made from this mineral valued for its play of color

(1) **opal** jewelry, (2) milky **opal**

The **opal** on her necklace glimmered in the sunlight.

## audacity

*n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless

*synonym*: boldness, daring, temerity

(1) **audacity** of hope, (2) act of **audacity**

His **audacity** in stealing the painting matched his foolishness in getting caught.

## comet

*n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

*synonym*: meteor, asteroid, meteoroid

(1) the surface of the **comet**, (2) **comet** Halley

The **comet's** bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

## icy

*adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

*synonym*: frosty, cold, glacial

(1) **icy** clouds, (2) cast **icy** eyes

The **icy** surface of the pond was not safe for skating.

## marvel

*n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

*synonym*: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

## paradoxical

*adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

*synonym*: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical** it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

## emerald

*adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

*synonym*: green, verdant, jade

(1) an **emerald** gem, (2) **emerald** ring

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

## indistinct

*adj.* not clear or easily seen, heard, or understood

*synonym*: faint, blurred, hazy

(1) **indistinct** memory, (2) **indistinct** pronunciation

The **indistinct** shape in the fog made it difficult to determine what it was.

## shimmer

*v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten

*synonym*: gleam, glimmer, flash

(1) **shimmer** with tears, (2) **shimmer** in the moonlight

The sunlight made the water in the pool **shimmer** like diamonds.

## dazzling

*adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting

*synonym*: astonishing, breathtaking, flashy

(1) **dazzling** debut, (2) **dazzling** views

Last night, the team delivered a **dazzling** performance.

## confluence

*n.* the point at which two or more streams or rivers come together; a gathering of people or things at a particular location or moment

*synonym*: merging, convergence, meeting

(1) arterial **confluence**, (2) **confluence** of ideas

A **confluence** of two smaller streams formed the river.

## trickle

*v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities

*synonym*: dribble, flow, seep

(1) **trickle** down my cheek, (2) **trickle** from his eyes

Water was beginning to **trickle** into the basement after the heavy rain.

## sandstone

*n.* a type of rock composed mainly of sand-sized grains of mineral or rock fragments

*synonym*: arenite

(1) lithic **sandstone**, (2) **sandstone** building

The **sandstone** cliffs along the coast are a natural wonder.

## 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**.

## basalt

*n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

*synonym*: volcanic rock, lava, igneous rock

(1) **basalt** rock, (2) **basalt** glass

The hiking trail was lined with towering **basalt** columns.

## microscopic

*adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

*synonym*: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

## silica

*n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler

*synonym* : silicon dioxide, quartz, sand

(1) **silica** gel, (2) **silica** fiber

The production of glass requires high-purity **silica** sand.

## prehistoric

*adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable

*synonym* : ancient, primitive, archaic

(1) **prehistoric** settlements, (2) **prehistoric** times

Scientists often fail to date archeological or **prehistorical** findings.

## evaporate

*v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

*synonym* : vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

## concentric

*adj.* having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another

*synonym* : homocentric, nested, circular

(1) **concentric** design, (2) **concentric** shades of color

**Concentric** circles surrounded the target on the shooting range.

## haphazard

*adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan

*synonym* : random, careless, arbitrary

(1) **haphazard** approach, (2) **haphazard** design

The company's hiring process was **haphazard**, with no objective criteria or standards.

## potch

*n.* a low-grade opal that has little to no play of color and is usually opaque or blurred; a type of clay that is fired and used to create potter's kilns or ceramic objects; (used as hotch-potch) a mixture or assortment of different things

or elements that are combined in a disorderly or random manner

*synonym* : blemish, defect, flaw

(1) **potch** opal, (2) a hotch- **potch** of furniture

The **potch** in the gemstone made it less valuable than a flawless one.

## unremarkable

*adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting

*synonym* : commonplace, unmemorable, mundane

(1) completely ordinary and **unremarkable**,

(2) **unremarkable** in looks

He was very busy at work but otherwise led an **unremarkable** life.

## mesmerize

*v.* to captivate or fascinate; to hold the complete attention of

*synonym* : captivate, trance, enchant

(1) **mesmerize** a subject, (2) **mesmerize** with magic

The magician's performance **mesmerized** the audience.

## orderly

*adj.* clean or organized in a neat, careful and logical way

*synonym* : tidy, tidied, neat

(1) **orderly** and fair market, (2) **orderly** manner

The elections were handled in a timely and **orderly** manner.

## 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.

## scatter

*v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions

*synonym* : disperse, spread, bestrew

(1) **scatter** seeds, (2) **scatter** around the internet

The hunter's approach **scattered** the geese.

## intensify

*v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

*synonym*: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

## suffuse

*v.* to spread or diffuse through something, typically about quality such as light or color; to permeate or fill with a particular emotion or feeling

*synonym*: diffuse, permeate, saturate

(1) **suffuse** with happiness, (2) **suffuse** with color

The warm glow of the sunset **suffused** the sky with shades of pink and orange.

## 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.

## pinfire

*adj.* equipped with a firing mechanism that uses small pins to strike cartridges and ignite gunpowder; (noun) a type of cartridge used in firearms that employs this mechanism

(1) **pinfire** revolver, (2) **pinfire** mechanism

The gunsmith was skilled in repairing and maintaining **pinfire** guns.

## harlequin

*n.* a comic character in traditional Italian theater known for their colorful diamond-patterned costume; a pattern of alternating colors or shapes arranged in a diamond shape

*synonym*: clown, jester, fool

(1) **harlequin** costume, (2) **harlequin** pattern

The dance performance included a **harlequin** character who stole the show.

## percolate

*v.* to filter through a porous substance or material; to pass through gradually or spread slowly; to rise or pass through a liquid or container, as in a coffee maker

*synonym* : filter, strain, drip

(1) **percolate** around the web, (2) **percolate** through the whole industry

The coffee slowly **percolated** through the filter and into the cup.

## nook

*n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

*synonym* : niche, corner, alcove

(1) every **nook** and cranny, (2) breakfast **nook**

The kitchen **nook** was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.

## cranny

*n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

*synonym* : crevice, nook, niche

(1) a **cranny** in the corner, (2) look in every nook and **cranny**

The mouse squeezed into the tiniest **cranny** of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

## artifact

*n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

*synonym* : antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

## opalescent

*adj.* having a play of colors like that of the opal gemstone; iridescent

*synonym* : iridescent, shimmering, lustrous

(1) become **opalescent**, (2) **opalescent** glass

The sunset reflected off the water, creating an **opalescent** glow.



## radiate

v. to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions

*synonym*: give off, scatter, beam

(1) **radiate** an aura, (2) **radiate** in all directions

Roads **radiate** from the famous building in the center of the city.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. a ma\_\_\_l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
2. aus\_\_\_\_\_us sign *adj.* a situation or event that is marked by potential success, favorable circumstances, or good fortune; a period that is believed to be a sign of favorable outcomes or prosperity
3. ind\_\_\_\_\_ct pronunciation *adj.* not clear or easily seen, heard, or understood
4. au\_\_\_\_\_ty of hope *n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless
5. mi\_\_r strike *n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
6. ha\_\_\_\_\_rd design *adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
7. con\_\_\_\_\_ce of ideas *n.* the point at which two or more streams or rivers come together; a gathering of people or things at a particular location or moment
8. me\_\_\_\_\_ze a subject *v.* to captivate or fascinate; to hold the complete attention of
9. o\_\_l jewelry *n.* a mineral consisting of hydrated silica that is often iridescent and comes in a variety of colors; a gemstone made from this mineral valued for its play of color

ANSWERS: 1. marvel, 2. auspicious, 3. indistinct, 4. audacity, 5. miner, 6. haphazard, 7. confluence, 8. mesmerize, 9. opal

10. a par\_\_\_\_\_al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
11. ind\_\_\_\_\_ct memory *adj.* not clear or easily seen, heard, or understood
12. em\_\_\_\_\_d ring *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
13. apparently par\_\_\_\_\_al *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
14. tr\_\_\_\_\_e from his eyes *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
15. 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
16. ha\_\_\_\_\_in costume *n.* a comic character in traditional Italian theater known for their colorful diamond-patterned costume; a pattern of alternating colors or shapes arranged in a diamond shape
17. lithic sa\_\_\_\_\_ne *n.* a type of rock composed mainly of sand-sized grains of mineral or rock fragments
18. look in every nook and cr\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
19. act of au\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless

ANSWERS: 10. paradoxical, 11. indistinct, 12. emerald, 13. paradoxical, 14. trickle, 15. nanoscale, 16. harlequin, 17. sandstone, 18. cranny, 19. audacity

20. sc\_\_\_\_r seeds                      *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
21. or\_\_\_\_y manner                      *adj.* clean or organized in a neat, careful and logical way
22. breakfast n\_\_k                      *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
23. su\_\_\_\_e with color                      *v.* to spread or diffuse through something, typically about quality such as light or color; to permeate or fill with a particular emotion or feeling
24. con\_\_\_\_ic shades of color                      *adj.* having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
25. every n\_\_k and cranny                      *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
26. si\_\_\_a fiber                      *n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
27. sh\_\_\_\_r with tears                      *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
28. milky o\_\_l                      *n.* a mineral consisting of hydrated silica that is often iridescent and comes in a variety of colors; a gemstone made from this mineral valued for its play of color

ANSWERS: 20. scatter, 21. orderly, 22. nook, 23. suffuse, 24. concentric, 25. nook, 26. silica, 27. shimmer, 28. opal

29. paleolithic ar\_\_\_\_\_cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
30. pe\_\_\_\_\_te through the whole industry *v.* to filter through a porous substance or material; to pass through gradually or spread slowly; to rise or pass through a liquid or container, as in a coffee maker
31. si\_\_\_a gel *n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
32. sheer li\_\_\_\_\_ne cliffs *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
33. ev\_\_\_\_\_te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
34. arterial con\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* the point at which two or more streams or rivers come together; a gathering of people or things at a particular location or moment
35. pi\_\_\_\_\_e mechanism *adj.* equipped with a firing mechanism that uses small pins to strike cartridges and ignite gunpowder; (noun) a type of cartridge used in firearms that employs this mechanism
36. me\_\_\_\_\_ze with magic *v.* to captivate or fascinate; to hold the complete attention of
37. tr\_\_\_\_\_e down my cheek *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities

ANSWERS: 29. artifact, 30. percolate, 31. silica, 32. limestone, 33. evaporate, 34. confluence, 35. pinfire, 36. mesmerize, 37. trickle

38. mi\_\_r industry *n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
39. mic\_\_\_\_\_ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
40. pe\_\_\_\_\_te around the web *v.* to filter through a porous substance or material; to pass through gradually or spread slowly; to rise or pass through a liquid or container, as in a coffee maker
41. su\_\_\_\_\_e with happiness *v.* to spread or diffuse through something, typically about quality such as light or color; to permeate or fill with a particular emotion or feeling
42. opa\_\_\_\_\_nt glass *adj.* having a play of colors like that of the opal gemstone; iridescent
43. sa\_\_\_\_\_ne building *n.* a type of rock composed mainly of sand-sized grains of mineral or rock fragments
44. a hotch-po\_\_h of furniture *n.* a low-grade opal that has little to no play of color and is usually opaque or blurred; a type of clay that is fired and used to create potter's kilns or ceramic objects; (used as hotch-potch) a mixture or assortment of different things or elements that are combined in a disorderly or random manner
45. in\_\_\_\_\_fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

ANSWERS: 38. miner, 39. microscopic, 40. percolate, 41. suffuse, 42. opalescent, 43. sandstone, 44. potch, 45. intensify

46. Peruvian ar\_\_\_\_\_cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
47. da\_\_\_\_\_ng debut *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
48. am\_\_\_\_\_y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
49. unr\_\_\_\_\_ble in looks *adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
50. technical ma\_\_\_\_l *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
51. ra\_\_\_\_\_e in all directions *v.* to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions
52. pi\_\_\_\_\_e revolver *adj.* equipped with a firing mechanism that uses small pins to strike cartridges and ignite gunpowder; (noun) a type of cartridge used in firearms that employs this mechanism
53. li\_\_\_\_\_ne pavement *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
54. cast i\_y eyes *adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness
55. sh\_\_\_\_\_r in the moonlight *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
56. mic\_\_\_\_\_ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
57. pre\_\_\_\_\_ic settlements *adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable

ANSWERS: 46. artifact, 47. dazzling, 48. amplify, 49. unremarkable, 50. marvel, 51. radiate, 52. pinfire, 53. limestone, 54. icy, 55. shimmer, 56. microscopic, 57. prehistoric

58. completely ordinary and unr\_\_\_\_\_ble *adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
59. sc\_\_\_\_\_r around the internet *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
60. ev\_\_\_\_\_te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
61. po\_\_h opal *n.* a low-grade opal that has little to no play of color and is usually opaque or blurred; a type of clay that is fired and used to create potter's kilns or ceramic objects; (used as hotch-potch) a mixture or assortment of different things or elements that are combined in a disorderly or random manner
62. a cr\_\_\_\_y in the corner *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
63. co\_\_t Halley *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
64. ba\_\_\_\_t glass *n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava
65. ra\_\_\_\_\_e an aura *v.* to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions
66. an em\_\_\_\_\_d gem *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
67. become opa\_\_\_\_\_nt *adj.* having a play of colors like that of the opal gemstone; iridescent
68. ba\_\_\_\_t rock *n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

ANSWERS: 58. unremarkable, 59. scatter, 60. evaporate, 61. potch, 62. cranny, 63. comet, 64. basalt, 65. radiate, 66. emerald, 67. opalescent, 68. basalt



69. ha\_\_\_\_\_rd approach *adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
70. ha\_\_\_\_\_in pattern *n.* a comic character in traditional Italian theater known for their colorful diamond-patterned costume; a pattern of alternating colors or shapes arranged in a diamond shape
71. am\_\_\_\_\_y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
72. con\_\_\_\_\_ic design *adj.* having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
73. na\_\_\_\_\_le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
74. raving lu\_\_\_\_\_c *n.* a person who is considered mentally ill, especially one who is extremely irrational or unpredictable; a crazy or foolish person
75. or\_\_\_\_\_y and fair market *adj.* clean or organized in a neat, careful and logical way
76. aus\_\_\_\_\_us timing *adj.* a situation or event that is marked by potential success, favorable circumstances, or good fortune; a period that is believed to be a sign of favorable outcomes or prosperity
77. the surface of the co\_\_t *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

ANSWERS: 69. haphazard, 70. harlequin, 71. amplify, 72. concentric, 73. nanoscale, 74. lunatic, 75. orderly, 76. auspicious, 77. comet

78. da\_\_\_\_ng views *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
79. i\_y clouds *adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness
80. in\_\_\_\_\_fy a good relationship *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
81. pre\_\_\_\_\_ic times *adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
82. a lone lu\_\_\_\_c *n.* a person who is considered mentally ill, especially one who is extremely irrational or unpredictable; a crazy or foolish person

ANSWERS: 78. dazzling, 79. icy, 80. intensify, 81. prehistoric, 82. lunatic

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Inspectors noticed \_\_\_\_\_ cracks in the submarine's hull.  
*adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
2. The hunter's approach \_\_\_\_\_ the geese.  
*v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.  
*adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
4. Roads \_\_\_\_\_ from the famous building in the center of the city.  
*v.* to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions
5. The production of glass requires high-purity \_\_\_\_\_ sand.  
*n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the gemstone made it less valuable than a flawless one.  
*n.* a low-grade opal that has little to no play of color and is usually opaque or blurred; a type of clay that is fired and used to create potter's kilns or ceramic objects; (used as hotch-potch) a mixture or assortment of different things or elements that are combined in a disorderly or random manner
7. The dance performance included a \_\_\_\_\_ character who stole the show.  
*n.* a comic character in traditional Italian theater known for their colorful diamond-patterned costume; a pattern of alternating colors or shapes arranged in a diamond shape

ANSWERS: 1. microscopic, 2. scattered, 3. emerald, 4. radiate, 5. silica, 6. potch, 7. harlequin

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ shape in the fog made it difficult to determine what it was.  
*adj.* not clear or easily seen, heard, or understood
9. He was very busy at work but otherwise led an \_\_\_\_\_ life.  
*adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
10. The warm glow of the sunset \_\_\_\_\_ the sky with shades of pink and orange.  
*v.* to spread or diffuse through something, typically about quality such as light or color; to permeate or fill with a particular emotion or feeling
11. it is \_\_\_\_\_ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.  
*adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
12. The sunset reflected off the water, creating an \_\_\_\_\_ glow.  
*adj.* having a play of colors like that of the opal gemstone; iridescent
13. The museum has a vast collection of Greek \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
14. His \_\_\_\_\_ in stealing the painting matched his foolishness in getting caught.  
*n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless
15. The space shuttle is a modern engineering \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
16. The elections were handled in a timely and \_\_\_\_\_ manner.  
*adj.* clean or organized in a neat, careful and logical way

ANSWERS: 8. indistinct, 9. unremarkable, 10. suffused, 11. paradoxical, 12. opalescent, 13. artifacts, 14. audacity, 15. marvel, 16. orderly

17. The sun will \_\_\_\_\_ the mist.

*v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

18. The sunlight made the water in the pool \_\_\_\_\_ like diamonds.

*v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten

19. 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

20. The \_\_\_\_\_ cliffs along the coast are a natural wonder.

*n.* a type of rock composed mainly of sand-sized grains of mineral or rock fragments

21. The coal \_\_\_\_\_ worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

*n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

22. The hiking trail was lined with towering \_\_\_\_\_ columns.

*n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

23. Last night, the team delivered a \_\_\_\_\_ performance.

*adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting

24. The \_\_\_\_\_ on her necklace glimmered in the sunlight.

*n.* a mineral consisting of hydrated silica that is often iridescent and comes in a variety of colors; a gemstone made from this mineral valued for its play of color

ANSWERS: 17. evaporate, 18. shimmer, 19. limestone, 20. sandstone, 21. miner, 22. basalt, 23. dazzling, 24. opal

25. The company's hiring process was \_\_\_\_\_ with no objective criteria or standards.  
*adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
26. Scientists often fail to date archeological or \_\_\_\_\_ findings.  
*adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
27. The coffee slowly \_\_\_\_\_ through the filter and into the cup.  
*v.* to filter through a porous substance or material; to pass through gradually or spread slowly; to rise or pass through a liquid or container, as in a coffee maker
28. The gunsmith was skilled in repairing and maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ guns.  
*adj.* equipped with a firing mechanism that uses small pins to strike cartridges and ignite gunpowder; (noun) a type of cartridge used in firearms that employs this mechanism
29. Water was beginning to \_\_\_\_\_ into the basement after the heavy rain.  
*v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
30. Rebels have pledged to \_\_\_\_\_ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.  
*v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
31. \_\_\_\_\_ circles surrounded the target on the shooting range.  
*adj.* having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
32. The politician's outrageous comments made him appear like a \_\_\_\_\_ to his opponents.  
*n.* a person who is considered mentally ill, especially one who is extremely irrational or unpredictable; a crazy or foolish person

ANSWERS: 25. haphazard, 26. prehistorical, 27. percolated, 28. pinfire, 29. trickle, 30. intensify, 31. Concentric, 32. lunatic

33. The \_\_\_\_\_ start to the new year brought hope for better times ahead.  
*adj.* a situation or event that is marked by potential success, favorable circumstances, or good fortune; a period that is believed to be a sign of favorable outcomes or prosperity
34. The mouse squeezed into the tiniest \_\_\_\_\_ of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.  
*n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
35. The magician's performance \_\_\_\_\_ the audience.  
*v.* to captivate or fascinate; to hold the complete attention of
36. The \_\_\_\_\_ bright tail could be seen in the night sky.  
*n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
37. A \_\_\_\_\_ of two smaller streams formed the river.  
*n.* the point at which two or more streams or rivers come together; a gathering of people or things at a particular location or moment
38. You might need to \_\_\_\_\_ this point.  
*v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
39. 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
40. The kitchen \_\_\_\_\_ was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.  
*n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

ANSWERS: 33. auspicious, 34. cranny, 35. mesmerized, 36. comet's, 37. confluence, 38. amplify, 39. nanoscale, 40. nook

41. The \_\_\_\_ surface of the pond was not safe for skating.

*adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

ANSWERS: 41. icy