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David Epstein: Why specializing early doesn't always mean career success | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym: mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds

He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

quintessence

n. the perfect example of a quality or class

synonym: essence, core, heart

(1) the **quintessence** of virtue, (2) **quintessence** of life

The **quintessence** of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.

grandmaster

n. a title given to a chess player who has achieved the highest level of skill and proficiency in the game; a person who is an expert or master in a particular field or activity

synonym: champion, expert, master

(1) **grandmaster** level, (2) martial arts **grandmaster**

The chess **grandmaster** easily defeated all of his opponents in the tournament.

plateau

n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

synonym: mesa, tableland, plain

(1) **plateau** region, (2) **plateau** in performance

The hikers finally reached the **plateau** after a long climb up the mountain.

comport

v. to behave or conduct oneself in a particular manner; to be consistent or in harmony with something

synonym: behave, conduct oneself, act

(1) **comport** me with dignity, (2) **comport** with the rules

He needs to **comport** himself professionally during the meeting.

obligatory

adj. required by a rule, law, or social convention; compulsory

synonym: mandatory, required, compulsory

(1) **obligatory** audit, (2) an **obligatory** subject

Attending the meeting was **obligatory** for all employees.

precocious

adj. exhibiting mature qualities or abilities at an unusually early age, especially mental or cognitive abilities; advanced beyond one's age or years in education, experience, or judgment

synonym: advanced, early, premature

(1) **precocious** maturity, (2) **precocious** talent

The **precocious** child was reading at a high school level by the time they were in first grade.

hymn

n. a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony

synonym: psalm, song, religious song

(1) a sacred **hymn**, (2) **hymn** tune

The congregation sang the **hymn** during the service.

recount

v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story

synonym: narrate, tell, report

(1) **recount** the adventure, (2) **recount** a conversation with him

They **recount** events that have already occurred.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

trade-off

n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

synonym: compromise, balance, exchange

(1) **trade-off** problem, (2) environmental **trade-off**

There was a **trade-off** between speed and accuracy in the task.

shun

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

synonym: avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym: believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

underlie

v. to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below

synonym: govern, control, determine

(1) **underlie** the theory of the big bang, (2) **underlie** the current economic deadlock

His bitter experiences **underlie** his moral principles.

laureate

n. a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**

The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.

scot

n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant

synonym: tax, charge, toll

(1) pay annual **scot**, (2) traditional **Scot** attire

The **scot-free** suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.

badminton

n. a sport played with rackets and a shuttlecock, in which players on either side of a net hit the shuttlecock back and forth over the net, trying to make the other player(s) fail to return the shuttlecock to the opposite side

synonym: shuttlecock, birdie, battledore

(1) play **badminton**, (2) **badminton** racket

We had a fun game of **badminton** in the park on a sunny afternoon.

dabble

v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid

synonym: toy with, tinker with, play at

(1) **dabble** in a hobby, (2) **dabble** at French

They often **dabble** in new business ventures but only commit partially.

enthusiast

n. a person having a strong liking for something

synonym: buff, aficionado, devotee

(1) classic car **enthusiasts**, (2) an **enthusiastic** response

The country's economic situation has improved markedly due to reform **enthusiasts**.

extrapolate

v. to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now

synonym: deduce, reason, infer

(1) **extrapolate** the results, (2) **extrapolate** animal dose

This predictive model mechanically **extrapolates** past trends into the future.

epitome

n. a person or thing that is a typical or perfect example of a particular quality or type

synonym: embodiment, apotheosis

(1) an **epitome** of history, (2) world's **epitome**

He was the **epitome** of courage, always standing up for his beliefs.

robin

n. a small bird from the thrush family, typically having a red breast and found across Europe, Asia, and North America

synonym: thrush, red-breast, redbird

(1) **robin** eggs, (2) **robin's** nest

I love listening to the cheerful song of the **robin** in my garden.

adaptable

adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

synonym: flexible, adjustable, elastic

(1) **adaptable** enough for the environment, (2) an **adaptable** person

We seek a candidate who possesses **adaptable** fighting

potential.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, connect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

backfire

v. to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

synonym: recoil, boomerang, misfire

(1) **backfire** big time, (2) **backfire** spectacularly

The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees **backfired** as it led to a decrease in productivity.

geopolitical

adj. of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

(1) the **geopolitical** situations, (2) reduce **geopolitical** risk

The country holds dominant **geopolitical** power over its neighbors.

credential

v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

synonym: certify, verify, (noun) certificate

(1) **credential** themselves by showing their registration,

(2) teaching **credential**

To get the job, I need to **credential** my experience and education.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to

help with various ailments.

double-edged

adj. having two sharp edges or sides, especially one that can harm or benefit in equal measure; (of sword or blade) having two cutting edges

synonym: two-sided, ambivalent, ambiguous

(1) a **double-edged** compliment, (2) **double-edged** tool
The **double-edged** sword could be used for both offense and defense.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**
The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

incision

n. a sharp cut made in something with a sharp tool, especially during a medical procedure

synonym: cut, slit, laceration

(1) **incision** tool, (2) small **incision**
Patients undergoing **incisional** surgery are often put to sleep by anesthesia.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym: stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button
My mother taught me how to **sew**.

meander

v. to wander or roam aimlessly or leisurely; to follow a winding or circuitous course, as a river or road

synonym: wander, zigzag, twist

(1) **meander** down the river, (2) **meander** aimlessly
We decided to **meander** through the park and enjoy the scenery.

zigzag

adj. having short sharp turns or angles

synonym : bent, crinkled, crooked

(1) **zigzag** sewing machine, (2) a **zigzag** line

We had to go through a **zigzag** course.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

magnum

n. a large wine bottle, typically holding 1.5 liters of wine, equivalent to two standard bottles; a type of cartridge that is more powerful than standard cartridges of the same caliber

synonym : large, big, grand

(1) three-inch **magnum**, (2) **magnum** masterpiece

The **magnum** bottle of wine was the perfect size for a small gathering of friends.

saga

n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes

synonym : epic, tale, chronicle

(1) fantasy **saga**, (2) historical **saga**

The epic **saga** of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.

blockbuster

n. a movie, book, or other product that is extremely successful and popular, especially one that makes much money

synonym : hit, success, smash

(1) **blockbuster** movie, (2) international **blockbuster**
The new action movie is expected to be a **blockbuster** hit.

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.

counterproductive

adj. having the opposite effect to the one intended or wanted

synonym: ineffective, inadequate, inefficient

(1) **counterproductive** approach, (2) highly **counterproductive** to performance

Territorial disputes between different countries are entirely **counterproductive** but common.

interleave

v. to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents

synonym: interlace, interweave, intersperse

(1) **interleave** pages, (2) **interleave** yarns

To create a sturdy fabric, the weavers must **interleave** the threads.

counterintuitive

adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

synonym: unreasonable, paradoxical, nonsensical

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

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

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

freeman

n. a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote

synonym : citizen, individual, person

(1) **freeman** rights, (2) **freeman** status

In the colonial period, only **freeman** was allowed to vote.

granular

adj. consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance

synonym : gritty, grainy, sandy

(1) a **granular** medicine, (2) **granular** data

The soil had a **granular** texture, making it easy to plant the seeds.

soar

v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

synonym : fly, rise, ascend

(1) **soar** in popularity, (2) **soar** to new heights

The bird **soared** through the sky, and its wings spread wide.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ma___m masterpiece *n.* a large wine bottle, typically holding 1.5 liters of wine, equivalent to two standard bottles; a type of cartridge that is more powerful than standard cartridges of the same caliber
2. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
3. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
4. ba_____re big time *v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion
5. s__r in popularity *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
6. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
7. ad_____le enough for the environment *adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
8. fantasy s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
9. teaching cre_____al *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

ANSWERS: 1. magnum, 2. physicist, 3. sham, 4. backfire, 5. soar, 6. industrious, 7. adaptable, 8. saga, 9. credential

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 10. an ep_____e of history | <i>n.</i> a person or thing that is a typical or perfect example of a particular quality or type |
| 11. d__m wrong or inappropriate | <i>v.</i> to consider or decide something in a particular way |
| 12. a zi___g line | <i>adj.</i> having short sharp turns or angles |
| 13. s_w with thread | <i>v.</i> to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle |
| 14. ba_____re spectacularly | <i>v.</i> to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion |
| 15. classic car ent_____sts | <i>n.</i> a person having a strong liking for something |
| 16. re_____t a conversation with him | <i>v.</i> to describe what happened or to narrate a story |
| 17. serial qu_____r | <i>n.</i> a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started |
| 18. co_____t with the rules | <i>v.</i> to behave or conduct oneself in a particular manner; to be consistent or in harmony with something |
| 19. cou_____ive behavior | <i>adj.</i> contrary to what common sense would suggest |
| 20. an ad_____le person | <i>adj.</i> able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations |
| 21. fr_____n status | <i>n.</i> a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote |

ANSWERS: 10. epitome, 11. deem, 12. zigzag, 13. sew, 14. backfire, 15. enthusiast, 16. recount, 17. quitter, 18. comport, 19. counterintuitive, 20. adaptable, 21. freeman

22. highly cou_____ive to performance
adj. having the opposite effect to the one intended or wanted
23. the geo_____cal situations
adj. of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
24. talented ph_____st
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
25. a dou_____ged compliment
adj. having two sharp edges or sides, especially one that can harm or benefit in equal measure; (of sword or blade) having two cutting edges
26. world's ep_____e
n. a person or thing that is a typical or perfect example of a particular quality or type
27. turn out to be all s__m
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
28. inc_____ze the right behavior
v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
29. traditional me_____al
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
30. s__n a person
v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
31. pre_____us maturity
adj. exhibiting mature qualities or abilities at an unusually early age, especially mental or cognitive abilities; advanced beyond one's age or years in education, experience, or judgment

ANSWERS: 22. counterproductive, 23. geopolitical, 24. physicist, 25. double-edged, 26. epitome, 27. sham, 28. incentivize, 29. medicinal, 30. shun, 31. precocious

32. a gr_____ar medicine *adj.* consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
33. small in_____on *n.* a sharp cut made in something with a sharp tool, especially during a medical procedure
34. s__n office politics *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
35. ext_____te the results *v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
36. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
37. tr_____ff problem *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
38. blo_____er movie *n.* a movie, book, or other product that is extremely successful and popular, especially one that makes much money
39. dou_____ged tool *adj.* having two sharp edges or sides, especially one that can harm or benefit in equal measure; (of sword or blade) having two cutting edges
40. the qui_____nce of virtue *n.* the perfect example of a quality or class
41. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
42. environmental tr_____ff *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

ANSWERS: 32. granular, 33. incision, 34. shun, 35. extrapolate, 36. quitter, 37. trade-off, 38. blockbuster, 39. double-edged, 40. quintessence, 41. interconnect, 42. trade-off

43. int_____ve yarns *v.* to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
44. an ent_____stic response *n.* a person having a strong liking for something
45. int_____ve pages *v.* to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
46. gr_____ar data *adj.* consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
47. im_____e animal sounds *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
48. fr_____n rights *n.* a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote
49. play ba_____on *n.* a sport played with rackets and a shuttlecock, in which players on either side of a net hit the shuttlecock back and forth over the net, trying to make the other player(s) fail to return the shuttlecock to the opposite side
50. un_____ie the current economic deadlock *v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below

ANSWERS: 43. interleave, 44. enthusiast, 45. interleave, 46. granular, 47. imitate, 48. freeman, 49. badminton, 50. underlie

51. three-inch ma___m *n.* a large wine bottle, typically holding 1.5 liters of wine, equivalent to two standard bottles; a type of cartridge that is more powerful than standard cartridges of the same caliber
52. ro__n eggs *n.* a small bird from the thrush family, typically having a red breast and found across Europe, Asia, and North America
53. un_____ie the theory of the big bang *v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
54. h__n tune *n.* a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony
55. d__m socially responsible *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
56. historical s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
57. Oscar la_____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
58. da___e at French *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid

ANSWERS: 51. magnum, 52. robin, 53. underlie, 54. hymn, 55. deem, 56. saga, 57. laureate, 58. dabble

59. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
60. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
61. international blo_____er *n.* a movie, book, or other product that is extremely successful and popular, especially one that makes much money
62. ext_____te animal dose *v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
63. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
64. re_____t the adventure *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story
65. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
66. poet la_____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
67. pl_____u region *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

ANSWERS: 59. creditor, 60. interconnect, 61. blockbuster, 62. extrapolate, 63. sew, 64. recount, 65. medicinal, 66. laureate, 67. plateau

68. gra_____er level *n.* a title given to a chess player who has achieved the highest level of skill and proficiency in the game; a person who is an expert or master in a particular field or activity
69. reduce geo_____cal risk *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
70. me_____r down the river *v.* to wander or roam aimlessly or leisurely; to follow a winding or circuitous course, as a river or road
71. cre_____al themselves by showing their registration *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
72. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
73. a sacred h__n *n.* a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony
74. traditional S__t attire *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
75. pay annual s__t *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
76. ba_____on racket *n.* a sport played with rackets and a shuttlecock, in which players on either side of a net hit the shuttlecock back and forth over the net, trying to make the other player(s) fail to return the shuttlecock to the opposite side

ANSWERS: 68. grandmaster, 69. geopolitical, 70. meander, 71. credential, 72. industrious, 73. hymn, 74. scot, 75. scot, 76. badminton

77. me_____r aimlessly *v.* to wander or roam aimlessly or leisurely; to follow a winding or circuitous course, as a river or road
78. im_____e painting styles *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
79. cou_____ive approach *adj.* having the opposite effect to the one intended or wanted
80. ro__n's nest *n.* a small bird from the thrush family, typically having a red breast and found across Europe, Asia, and North America
81. obl_____ry audit *adj.* required by a rule, law, or social convention; compulsory
82. co_____t me with dignity *v.* to behave or conduct oneself in a particular manner; to be consistent or in harmony with something
83. s__r to new heights *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
84. cou_____ive results *adj.* contrary to what common sense would suggest
85. martial arts gra_____er *n.* a title given to a chess player who has achieved the highest level of skill and proficiency in the game; a person who is an expert or master in a particular field or activity
86. da___e in a hobby *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid

ANSWERS: 77. meander, 78. imitate, 79. counterproductive, 80. robin, 81. obligatory, 82. comport, 83. soar, 84. counterintuitive, 85. grandmaster, 86. dabble

87. zi___g sewing machine *adj.* having short sharp turns or angles
88. qui_____nce of life *n.* the perfect example of a quality or class
89. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
90. an obl_____ry subject *adj.* required by a rule, law, or social convention; compulsory
91. pl_____u in performance *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
92. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
93. in_____on tool *n.* a sharp cut made in something with a sharp tool, especially during a medical procedure
94. pre_____us talent *adj.* exhibiting mature qualities or abilities at an unusually early age, especially mental or cognitive abilities; advanced beyond one's age or years in education, experience, or judgment

ANSWERS: 87. zigzag, 88. quintessence, 89. incentivize, 90. obligatory, 91. plateau, 92. creditor, 93. incision, 94. precocious

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The chess _____ easily defeated all of his opponents in the tournament.
n. a title given to a chess player who has achieved the highest level of skill and proficiency in the game; a person who is an expert or master in a particular field or activity

2. The _____ child was reading at a high school level by the time they were in first grade.
adj. exhibiting mature qualities or abilities at an unusually early age, especially mental or cognitive abilities; advanced beyond one's age or years in education, experience, or judgment

3. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

4. We had a fun game of _____ in the park on a sunny afternoon.
n. a sport played with rackets and a shuttlecock, in which players on either side of a net hit the shuttlecock back and forth over the net, trying to make the other player(s) fail to return the shuttlecock to the opposite side

5. We decided to _____ through the park and enjoy the scenery.
v. to wander or roam aimlessly or leisurely; to follow a winding or circuitous course, as a river or road

6. He was the _____ of courage, always standing up for his beliefs.
n. a person or thing that is a typical or perfect example of a particular quality or type

ANSWERS: 1. grandmaster, 2. precocious, 3. quitter, 4. badminton, 5. meander, 6. epitome

7. He _____ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.
v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
8. The _____ nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.
adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest
9. The data he prepared was completely _____.
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
10. The _____ suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.
n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
11. We had to go through a _____ course.
adj. having short sharp turns or angles
12. I love listening to the cheerful song of the _____ in my garden.
n. a small bird from the thrush family, typically having a red breast and found across Europe, Asia, and North America
13. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
14. The country's economic situation has improved markedly due to reform _____.
n. a person having a strong liking for something

ANSWERS: 7. shunned, 8. counterintuitive, 9. sham, 10. scot-free, 11. zigzag, 12. robin, 13. medicinal, 14. enthusiasts

15. This predictive model mechanically _____ past trends into the future.
v. to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
16. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
v. to consider or decide something in a particular way
17. His bitter experiences _____ his moral principles.
v. to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
18. Territorial disputes between different countries are entirely _____ but common.
adj. having the opposite effect to the one intended or wanted
19. The _____ bottle of wine was the perfect size for a small gathering of friends.
n. a large wine bottle, typically holding 1.5 liters of wine, equivalent to two standard bottles; a type of cartridge that is more powerful than standard cartridges of the same caliber
20. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.
v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
21. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
22. My mother taught me how to _____.
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

ANSWERS: 15. extrapolates, 16. deemed, 17. underlie, 18. counterproductive, 19. magnum, 20. imitated, 21. industrious, 22. sew

23. The congregation sang the _____ during the service.
n. a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony
24. They often _____ in new business ventures but only commit partially.
v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
25. Patients undergoing _____ surgery are often put to sleep by anesthesia.
n. a sharp cut made in something with a sharp tool, especially during a medical procedure
26. To create a sturdy fabric, the weavers must _____ the threads.
v. to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
27. The new action movie is expected to be a _____ hit.
n. a movie, book, or other product that is extremely successful and popular, especially one that makes much money
28. To get the job, I need to _____ my experience and education.
v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
29. Attending the meeting was _____ for all employees.
adj. required by a rule, law, or social convention; compulsory
30. They _____ events that have already occurred.
v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story

ANSWERS: 23. hymn, 24. dabble, 25. incisional, 26. interleave, 27. blockbuster, 28. credential, 29. obligatory, 30. recount

31. The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees _____ as it led to a decrease in productivity.
- v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion
32. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
33. 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
34. The Nobel _____ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
- n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
35. In the colonial period, only _____ was allowed to vote.
- n.* a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote
36. He needs to _____ himself professionally during the meeting.
- v.* to behave or conduct oneself in a particular manner; to be consistent or in harmony with something
37. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
- n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
38. We seek a candidate who possesses _____ fighting potential.
- adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

ANSWERS: 31. backfired, 32. creditor, 33. incentivize, 34. laureate, 35. freeman, 36. comport, 37. physicist, 38. adaptable

39. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
v. to connect similar things
40. The bird _____ through the sky, and its wings spread wide.
v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
41. The country holds dominant _____ power over its neighbors.
adj. of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
42. The epic _____ of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.
n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
43. There was a _____ between speed and accuracy in the task.
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
44. The _____ of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.
n. the perfect example of a quality or class
45. The soil had a _____ texture, making it easy to plant the seeds.
adj. consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
46. The hikers finally reached the _____ after a long climb up the mountain.
n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

ANSWERS: 39. interconnect, 40. soared, 41. geopolitical, 42. saga, 43. trade-off, 44. quintessence, 45. granular, 46. plateau

47. The _____ sword could be used for both offense and defense.

adj. having two sharp edges or sides, especially one that can harm or benefit in equal measure; (of sword or blade) having two cutting edges

ANSWERS: 47. double-edged