

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor: Why it's so hard to talk about the N-word | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

- slur**
- v.* to speak about someone or something in a way that is insulting, derogatory, or libelous; to damage or smear a person's reputation by making false or defamatory statements
- synonym* : defame, slander, denigrate
- (1) **slur** a drink, (2) **slur** his reputation
- He shouldn't be allowed to **slur** people based on race or sexuality.
- haunted**
- adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
- synonym* : spooky, eerie, ghostly
- (1) **haunted** house, (2) **haunted** by memories
- The old mansion was known to be **haunted**, with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.
- euphemism**
- n.* a mild or indirect word or expression used in place of one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing
- synonym* : mild expression, implication, circumlocution
- (1) genteel **euphemism**, (2) a **euphemism** for death
- The company used the **euphemism** "downsizing" to describe

the layoffs of hundreds of employees.

reckon

v. to think or believe something

synonym: regard, imagine, suppose

(1) hard to **reckon**, (2) **reckon** the company as a rival

He **reckons** that corruption was rampant in the regime.

hurl

v. to throw something with great force

synonym: throw, fling, launch

(1) **hurl** a brickbat, (2) **hurl** a cup out of the window

She angrily **hurled** the book across the room.

stump

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

synonym: mix up

(1) the riddle **stumped** everybody, (2) we are **stumped** with the problem

He is **stumped** with the question.

provoke

v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

synonym: stimulate, incite, encourage

(1) **provoke** a disease, (2) **provoke** a reaction

Her behavior **provoked** a quarrel between the couple.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

groundbreaking

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

synonym: innovative, revolutionary

(1) **groundbreaking** concept, (2) **groundbreaking** settlement

He has produced **groundbreaking** research on the subject.

relic

n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

synonym: whiff, vestige, antique

(1) historical **relic**, (2) holy **relics**

This bronze sword is a **relic** of ancient times.

disguise

v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

synonym: mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

immutable

adj. unchanging; permanent or unalterable

synonym: unchanging, constant, permanent

(1) **immutable** love, (2) **immutable** characteristics

The laws of physics are **immutable**; they never change.

inferiority

n. the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others

synonym: lower status, low self-esteem, inadequacy

(1) **inferiority** complex, (2) **inferiority** mindset

The professor's scathing comments left the student with a sense of **inferiority** about their work.

spew

v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

synonym : vomit, spout, discharge

(1) **spew** carbon dioxide, (2) **spew** insults

The volcano started to **spew** lava and ash, causing panic among residents.

obscene

adj. offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex

synonym : improper, nasty, lewd

(1) **obscene** literature, (2) an **obscene** story

He made an **obscene** gesture.

snip

v. to trim or cut something, especially with scissors or shears; to remove a small part or piece from something with a quick cut or slice

synonym : clip, trim, cut

(1) **snip** a lock of hair, (2) **snip** the wire

I must **snip** the loose thread on my shirt before it becomes a bigger problem.

vile

adj. highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence

synonym : disgusting, repulsive, despicable

(1) **vile** behavior, (2) **vile** language

The **vile** smell coming from the dumpster was unbearable.

surrogate

adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

synonym : substitute, replacement, deputy

(1) **surrogate** pregnancy, (2) **surrogate** decision

The **surrogate** mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym : later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

insufferable

adj. intolerable or unbearable; causing excessive annoyance, irritation, or discontent

synonym: unbearable, intolerable, annoying

(1) **insufferable** heat, (2) **insufferable** traffic during rush hour

My **insufferable** neighbor plays loud music at all hours of the night.

bully

n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

synonym: tormentor, intimidator, aggressor

(1) **bully** bystander, (2) **bully** the weak

The schoolyard **bully** terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

fuss

n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

synonym: commotion, agitation, disturbance

(1) make a **fuss**, (2) get into a **fuss**

There was a **fuss** about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.

weep

v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

synonym: cry, sob, mourn

(1) **weep** bitter tears, (2) **weep** for joy

I'm easily moved to tears, so I would **weep** in sympathy if I saw that movie.

fraught

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

synonym: tense, anxious, stressed

(1) become increasingly **fraught**, (2) **fraught** with danger

The negotiations were **fraught** with challenges and setbacks.

indict

v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

synonym: accuse, charge, prosecute

(1) **indict** a suspect, (2) **indict** him of injuries

The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to **indict** the corrupt politician.

huck

v. to throw or toss something quickly or carelessly; to promote or sell something aggressively or persistently

synonym: throw, toss, pitch

(1) **huck** a ball, (2) **huck** a disc

I was able to **huck** the frisbee across the field to my friend.

stark

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

synonym: crude, blunt, desolate

(1) **stark** landscape, (2) **stark** truth

The scenery of the battlefield was **stark** and grey.

bobblehead

n. a figurine with a head that is attached to a spring or wire so that it moves or wobbles easily

synonym: nodder, figurine, statuette

(1) wedding **bobblehead**, (2) celebrity **bobblehead**

The baseball team gave away **bobblehead** dolls of their star player at the game.

mockingbird

n. a type of songbird known for its ability to imitate the calls and songs of other birds and animals

synonym: mimic, imitator, mocker

(1) tropical **mockingbird**, (2) a **mockingbird's** nest

The **mockingbird's** song echoed through the neighborhood, mockingly imitating other birds.

boycott

v. to refuse to buy, use, or patronize a particular product or service as a form of protest or to bring about change;
(*noun*) a deliberate and organized refusal to buy or use a product, service, or organization as a form of protest or to apply pressure for change

synonym: protest, abstain, avoid

(1) **boycott** campaign, (2) **boycott** the discussion

Many people have decided to **boycott** the company due to their unethical practices.

emulate

v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

synonym: impersonate, mimic, imitate

(1) **emulate** a successful business model, (2) **emulate** his watercolors

They intend to **emulate** the footsteps of successful software companies.

hallway

n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

synonym: foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

astonished

adj. extremely surprised and upset

synonym: amazed, dumbfounded, flabbergasted

(1) **astonished** at the success, (2) cast **astonished** eyes
She was **astonished** by the news and could hardly believe it.

subversive

adj. intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

synonym: incendiary, dissident, (noun) rebel

(1) **subversive** elements, (2) **subversive** literature

The artwork was criticized for its **subversive** theme that undermined religious beliefs.

virulent

adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile

synonym: poisonous, venomous, toxic

(1) **virulent** disease, (2) **virulent** criticism

The **virulent** virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.

aspiration

n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

synonym: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs

He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

unleash

v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

synonym: discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in pursuit of an enemy.

tirade

n. a long, angry speech or outburst of criticism or condemnation

synonym : rant, diatribe, harangue

(1) **tirade** against him, (2) launch a **tirade**

The politician went on a **tirade** about the opposition party's policies.

prosper

v. to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish

synonym : thrive, flourish, succeed

(1) **prosper** in the long run, (2) **prosper** as a trading hub

With careful planning and hard work, she was able to **prosper** in her new business venture.

kneel

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

synonym : genuflect, crouch, bend

(1) **kneel** down and worship, (2) **kneel** in protest

The players are **kneeling** during the national anthem.

shush

v. to silence or quiet someone or something, particularly by making a "shh" or "hush" sound

synonym : silence, hush, quiet

(1) **shush** the baby, (2) **shush** the crowd

I had to **shush** my chatty friend during the movie.

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**.

tantalize

v. to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable

synonym : tease, tempt, torment

(1) **tantalize** taste buds, (2) **tantalize** with promises

The smell of freshly baked cookies in the kitchen **tantalized**

me.

squeamish

adj. easily nauseated or disgusted; readily affected by or sensitive to unpleasant or shocking things; excessively fastidious or scrupulous about one's actions or behavior
synonym: delicate, queasy

(1) **squeamish** reaction, (2) avoid **squeamish** topics
She's a bit **squeamish** when it comes to handling raw meat.

misinformation

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
synonym: falsity, misreport, misstatement

(1) **misinformation** about a vaccine, (2) combat **misinformation** on social media
The government called for caution against pseudoscientific **misinformation** about vaccines.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves
He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

rein

n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

synonym: strap, harness, headstall

(1) tight **rein**, (2) **rein** in costs
The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the **rein** as the horse bolted.

acquaint

v. to cause someone to become aware of or familiar with someone or something

synonym: familiarize, inform, enlighten

(1) **acquaint** himself with a subject, (2) **acquaint** me with business

I recently **acquainted** myself with a new coworker by introducing myself and chatting with her for a few minutes.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a eu_____sm for death
n. a mild or indirect word or expression used in place of one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing
2. tight r__n
n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
3. gro_____ing settlement
adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
4. inf_____ty complex
n. the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
5. s__p the wire
v. to trim or cut something, especially with scissors or shears; to remove a small part or piece from something with a quick cut or slice
6. we are st__ped with the problem
v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
7. pr_____e a reaction
v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

ANSWERS: 1. euphemism, 2. rein, 3. groundbreaking, 4. inferiority, 5. snip, 6. stump, 7. provoke

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8. an ob_____e story | <i>adj.</i> offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex |
| 9. go there af_____rd | <i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned |
| 10. se__r a positive relationship | <i>v.</i> to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly |
| 11. ac____e his rudeness | <i>v.</i> to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing |
| 12. genteel eu_____sm | <i>n.</i> a mild or indirect word or expression used in place of one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing |
| 13. pr_____e a disease | <i>v.</i> to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect |
| 14. become increasingly fr_____t | <i>adj.</i> causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress |
| 15. mis_____ion about a vaccine | <i>n.</i> information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately |
| 16. h__l a cup out of the window | <i>v.</i> to throw something with great force |
| 17. st__k truth | <i>adj.</i> empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications |
| 18. ins_____ble traffic during rush hour | <i>adj.</i> intolerable or unbearable; causing excessive annoyance, irritation, or discontent |
| 19. ha_____d house | <i>adj.</i> inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions |

ANSWERS: 8. obscene, 9. afterward, 10. sever, 11. accuse, 12. euphemism, 13. provoke, 14. fraught, 15. misinformation, 16. hurl, 17. stark, 18. insufferable, 19. haunted

20. in___t a suspect *v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them
21. s__w insults *v.* to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
22. wedding bob_____ad *n.* a figurine with a head that is attached to a spring or wire so that it moves or wobbles easily
23. su_____te decision *adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
24. r__n in costs *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
25. di_____se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
26. ins_____ble heat *adj.* intolerable or unbearable; causing excessive annoyance, irritation, or discontent
27. un_____h her anger *v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
28. kn__l down and worship *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees

ANSWERS: 20. indict, 21. spew, 22. bobblehead, 23. surrogate, 24. rein, 25. disguise, 26. insufferable, 27. unleash, 28. kneel

29. cast ast_____ed eyes *adj.* extremely surprised and upset
30. ha_____d by memories *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
31. v__e behavior *adj.* highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence
32. asp_____on into the lungs *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
33. ast_____ed at the success *adj.* extremely surprised and upset
34. the riddle st__ped everybody *v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
35. h__l a brickbat *v.* to throw something with great force
36. s__w carbon dioxide *v.* to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
37. celebrity bob_____ad *n.* a figurine with a head that is attached to a spring or wire so that it moves or wobbles easily
38. bo_____t campaign *v.* to refuse to buy, use, or patronize a particular product or service as a form of protest or to bring about change; (noun) a deliberate and organized refusal to buy or use a product, service, or organization as a form of protest or to apply pressure for change

ANSWERS: 29. astonished, 30. haunted, 31. vile, 32. aspiration, 33. astonished, 34. stump, 35. hurl, 36. spew, 37. bobblehead, 38. boycott

39. ta_____ze taste buds *v.* to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
40. combat mis_____ion on social media *n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
41. answer in a wh_____r *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
42. sq_____sh reaction *adj.* easily nauseated or disgusted; readily affected by or sensitive to unpleasant or shocking things; excessively fastidious or scrupulous about one's actions or behavior
43. su_____te pregnancy *adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
44. no asp_____on for fame *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
45. im_____le characteristics *adj.* unchanging; permanent or unalterable
46. st__k landscape *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
47. in___t him of injuries *v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them
48. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

ANSWERS: 39. tantalize, 40. misinformation, 41. whisper, 42. squeamish, 43. surrogate, 44. aspiration, 45. immutable, 46. stark, 47. indict, 48. humiliate

49. ac____nt me with business *v.* to cause someone to become aware of or familiar with someone or something
50. vi____nt disease *adj.* extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
51. hard to re____n *v.* to think or believe something
52. di____se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
53. ti____e against him *n.* a long, angry speech or outburst of criticism or condemnation
54. historical re__c *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
55. 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
56. sub____ve literature *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution
57. vi____nt criticism *adj.* extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile

ANSWERS: 49. acquaint, 50. virulent, 51. reckon, 52. disguise, 53. tirade, 54. relic, 55. sham, 56. subversive, 57. virulent

70. 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
71. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
72. se__r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
73. h__k a ball *v.* to throw or toss something quickly or carelessly; to promote or sell something aggressively or persistently
74. pr_____r in the long run *v.* to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
75. s__r a drink *v.* to speak about someone or something in a way that is insulting, derogatory, or libelous; to damage or smear a person's reputation by making false or defamatory statements
76. em_____e a successful business model *v.* to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
77. inf_____ty mindset *n.* the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
78. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

ANSWERS: 70. sham, 71. intellect, 72. sever, 73. huck, 74. prosper, 75. slur, 76. emulate, 77. inferiority, 78. humiliate

79. sub_____ve elements *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution
80. bu__y the weak *n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
81. a moc_____rd's nest *n.* a type of songbird known for its ability to imitate the calls and songs of other birds and animals
82. ac_____nt himself with a subject *v.* to cause someone to become aware of or familiar with someone or something
83. sh__h the baby *v.* to silence or quiet someone or something, particularly by making a "shh" or "hush" sound
84. gro_____ing concept *adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
85. bo_____t the discussion *v.* to refuse to buy, use, or patronize a particular product or service as a form of protest or to bring about change; (noun) a deliberate and organized refusal to buy or use a product, service, or organization as a form of protest or to apply pressure for change

ANSWERS: 79. subversive, 80. bully, 81. mockingbird, 82. acquaint, 83. shush, 84. groundbreaking, 85. boycott

86. w__p bitter tears *v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
87. the head of a ha____y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
88. im_____le love *adj.* unchanging; permanent or unalterable
89. s__r his reputation *v.* to speak about someone or something in a way that is insulting, derogatory, or libelous; to damage or smear a person's reputation by making false or defamatory statements
90. the wh____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
91. tropical moc_____rd *n.* a type of songbird known for its ability to imitate the calls and songs of other birds and animals
92. em_____e his watercolors *v.* to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
93. fr____t with danger *adj.* causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
94. ac___e each other *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
95. ob_____e literature *adj.* offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex
96. get into a f__s *n.* a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
97. bu__y bystander *n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

ANSWERS: 86. weep, 87. hallway, 88. immutable, 89. slur, 90. whisper, 91. mockingbird, 92. emulate, 93. fraught, 94. accuse, 95. obscene, 96. fuss, 97. bully

98. holy re__cs *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
99. sh__h the crowd *v.* to silence or quiet someone or something, particularly by making a "shh" or "hush" sound
100. h__k a disc *v.* to throw or toss something quickly or carelessly; to promote or sell something aggressively or persistently
101. ta_____ze with promises *v.* to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
102. re___n the company as a rival *v.* to think or believe something

ANSWERS: 98. relic, 99. shush, 100. huck, 101. tantalize, 102. reckon

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. With careful planning and hard work, she was able to _____ in her new business venture.
 - v. to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish

2. He is _____ with the question.
 - v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

3. The artwork was criticized for its _____ theme that undermined religious beliefs.
 - adj. intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

4. My _____ neighbor plays loud music at all hours of the night.
 - adj. intolerable or unbearable; causing excessive annoyance, irritation, or discontent

5. He _____ that corruption was rampant in the regime.
 - v. to think or believe something

6. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
 - v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

7. The volcano started to _____ lava and ash, causing panic among residents.
 - v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

ANSWERS: 1. prosper, 2. stumped, 3. subversive, 4. insufferable, 5. reckons, 6. humiliated, 7. spew

8. I had to _____ my chatty friend during the movie.
- v. to silence or quiet someone or something, particularly by making a "shh" or "hush" sound
9. I recently _____ myself with a new coworker by introducing myself and chatting with her for a few minutes.
- v. to cause someone to become aware of or familiar with someone or something
10. The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the _____ as the horse bolted.
- n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
11. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.
- n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
12. I was able to _____ the frisbee across the field to my friend.
- v. to throw or toss something quickly or carelessly; to promote or sell something aggressively or persistently
13. Many people have decided to _____ the company due to their unethical practices.
- v. to refuse to buy, use, or patronize a particular product or service as a form of protest or to bring about change; (noun) a deliberate and organized refusal to buy or use a product, service, or organization as a form of protest or to apply pressure for change
14. He has produced _____ research on the subject.
- adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 8. shush, 9. acquainted, 10. rein, 11. hallway, 12. huck, 13. boycott, 14. groundbreaking

15. He has an _____ to become a doctor.
n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
16. The _____ song echoed through the neighborhood, mockingly imitating other birds.
n. a type of songbird known for its ability to imitate the calls and songs of other birds and animals
17. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
18. The players are _____ during the national anthem.
v. to rest on someone's knee or knees
19. The old mansion was known to be _____ with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.
adj. inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
20. The _____ virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.
adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
21. They intend to _____ the footsteps of successful software companies.
v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
22. The government called for caution against pseudoscientific _____ about vaccines.
n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

ANSWERS: 15. aspiration, 16. mockingbird's, 17. severed, 18. kneeling, 19. haunted, 20. virulent, 21. emulate, 22. misinformation

23. She was _____ by the news and could hardly believe it.

adj. extremely surprised and upset

24. The politician went on a _____ about the opposition party's policies.

n. a long, angry speech or outburst of criticism or condemnation

25. 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

26. The _____ smell coming from the dumpster was unbearable.

adj. highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence

27. The scenery of the battlefield was _____ and grey.

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

28. She's a bit _____ when it comes to handling raw meat.

adj. easily nauseated or disgusted; readily affected by or sensitive to unpleasant or shocking things; excessively fastidious or scrupulous about one's actions or behavior

29. The _____ mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.

adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

30. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

ANSWERS: 23. astonished, 24. tirade, 25. sham, 26. vile, 27. stark, 28. squeamish, 29. surrogate, 30. whispered

31. The professor's scathing comments left the student with a sense of _____ about their work.
n. the state or condition of being lower in rank, quality, or status; a feeling or sense of being less worthy or capable than others
32. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
adv. after the time mentioned
33. The negotiations were _____ with challenges and setbacks.
adj. causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
34. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.
v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
35. The laws of physics are _____ they never change.
adj. unchanging; permanent or unalterable
36. The smell of freshly baked cookies in the kitchen _____ me.
v. to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
37. Her behavior _____ a quarrel between the couple.
v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
38. The baseball team gave away _____ dolls of their star player at the game.
n. a figurine with a head that is attached to a spring or wire so that it moves or wobbles easily
39. I must _____ the loose thread on my shirt before it becomes a bigger problem.
v. to trim or cut something, especially with scissors or shears; to remove a small part or piece from something with a quick cut or slice

ANSWERS: 31. inferiority, 32. afterward, 33. fraught, 34. accused, 35. immutable;, 36. tantalized, 37. provoked, 38. bobblehead, 39. snip

40. The schoolyard _____ terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.

- n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

41. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

42. The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to _____ the corrupt politician.

- v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

43. He shouldn't be allowed to _____ people based on race or sexuality.

- v.* to speak about someone or something in a way that is insulting, derogatory, or libelous; to damage or smear a person's reputation by making false or defamatory statements

44. I'm easily moved to tears, so I would _____ in sympathy if I saw that movie.

- v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

45. He made an _____ gesture.

- adj.* offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex

46. Later it turned out that the politician _____ the fact from the public.

- v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

ANSWERS: 40. bully, 41. intellect, 42. indict, 43. slur, 44. weep, 45. obscene, 46. disguised

47. There was a _____ about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.
n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
48. This bronze sword is a _____ of ancient times.
n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
49. The general was still reluctant to _____ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.
v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
50. She angrily _____ the book across the room.
v. to throw something with great force
51. The company used the _____ "downsizing" to describe the layoffs of hundreds of employees.
n. a mild or indirect word or expression used in place of one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing

ANSWERS: 47. fuss, 48. relic, 49. unleash, 50. hurled, 51. euphemism