

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Sascha Morrell: Why is William Faulkner so difficult to read? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sascha\\_morrell\\_why\\_is\\_william\\_faulkner\\_so\\_difficult\\_to\\_read](https://www.ted.com/talks/sascha_morrell_why_is_william_faulkner_so_difficult_to_read)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### narrate

v. to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

*synonym*: tell, recount, describe

(1) **narrate** a news article, (2) **narrate** an event

The audiobook hired a professional actor to **narrate** the story, making it more engaging for listeners.

### convoluted

*adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

*synonym*: intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language

James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

### outlandish

*adj.* bizarre, strange, or unconventional in appearance, behavior, or thought, often in a way that is seen as foreign or exotic; unusual or strikingly different from what is expected or normal

*synonym*: eccentric, bizarre, strange

(1) **outlandish** proposal, (2) **outlandish** behavior

The **outlandish** outfit drew the attention of everyone in the room.

## confuse

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym*: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

## perplexing

*adj.* causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying

*synonym*: puzzling, confusing, baffling

(1) **perplexing** situation, (2) **perplexing** problem

The novel's ambiguous ending left readers with a **perplexing** message.

## inventive

*adj.* able to come up with novel and unique ideas

*synonym*: imaginative, creative, innovative

(1) have the **inventive** talent, (2) **inventive** approach

All language around the world is consistently **inventive** but not intrusive.

## labyrinth

*n.* a complicated network of paths or passages, often with twists and turns, making it difficult to find one's way out

*synonym*: maze, puzzle, network

(1) a **labyrinth** of relationships, (2) **labyrinthine** pathways

It was easy to get lost in the **labyrinth** of narrow alleyways in the old city.

## reimagine

*v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way

*synonym*: re-conceptualize, re-envision, re-create

(1) **reimagine** the future, (2) **reimagine** the possibilities

The company is trying to **reimagine** its business model to stay competitive.

## storytelling

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

*synonym*: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

## folklore

*n.* traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and songs of a community, passed down orally

*synonym*: myths, legends, traditions

(1) **folklore** tradition, (2) **folklore** myth

The area's **folklore** tells of a ghost that haunts the old mill.

## spurn

*v.* to reject or disdain with contempt; to refuse to accept or consider; to treat with disdain or neglect

*synonym*: reject, disdain, despise

(1) **spurn** social norms, (2) **spurn** invitations

She **spurned** his advances and walked away.

## corpse

*n.* the dead body of a human being

*synonym*: body, remains, cadaver

(1) desiccated **corpse**, (2) the **corpse** of an animal

The police found the **corpse** in the abandoned building.

## dupe

*v.* to deceive or trick someone into believing something that is not true; to cheat or swindle someone; (noun) a person who has been deceived or tricked into believing something that is not true, often by someone who is trying to take advantage of them

*synonym*: trick, deceive, fool

(1) **dupe** him into believing, (2) **dupe** the public

He tried to **dupe** me into buying a product that didn't work.

## sharecropper

*n.* a farmer who cultivates a piece of land owned by someone else, usually in exchange for a share of the crops produced

*synonym*: tenant farmer, cropper, farmer

(1) **sharecropper** system, (2) **sharecropper** labor

Many **sharecroppers** in the South were impoverished and trapped in a cycle of debt.

## obsessive

*adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

*synonym* : compulsive, fixated, besetting

(1) **obsessive-compulsive** disorder, (2) **obsessive** thoughts

Her **obsessive** behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.

## grotesque

*adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre

*synonym* : bizarre, deformed, monstrous

(1) have **grotesque** design, (2) **grotesque** appearance

The **grotesque** sculpture made me feel uneasy.

## obsession

*n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

*synonym* : compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

## stubborn

*adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

*synonym* : persistent, obstinate, determined

(1) **stubborn** attitude, (2) **stubborn** stains

He was so **stubborn** about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

## unwitting

*adj.* without purpose or intent

*synonym* : unknowledgeable, inadvertent, unintended

(1) **unwitting** victims, (2) an **unwitting** mistake

His rudeness was **unwitting**, not intentional.

## distort

*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

*synonym* : fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

## fury

*n.* intense and often violent anger

*synonym* : rage, wrath, ire

(1) market **fury**, (2) **fury** of the storm

The crowd's **fury** was palpable as they shouted and protested against the government's decision.

## 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.

## caddy

*n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs

*synonym* : container, carrier, holder

(1) golf **caddy**, (2) **caddy** spoon

The tea **caddy** was a beautiful antique with intricate designs carved into the wood.

## narration

*n.* the act or process of telling a story; the relating of a story or account

*synonym* : story-telling, recital, account

(1) **narration** of events, (2) exaggerate in **narration**

His **narration** of the story was engaging and captivating.

## contradict

*v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

*synonym* : conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

## disjointed

*adj.* lacking coherence or connectivity; not flowing smoothly or logically; disconnected or fragmented

*synonym*: disconnected, disordered, incoherent

(1) **disjointed** speech, (2) **disjointed** narrative

The **disjointed** plot of the movie left many viewers needing clarification and satisfaction.

## sect

*n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

*synonym*: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

## untimely

*adj.* happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time

*synonym*: inappropriate, unfortunate, inopportune

(1) die an **untimely** death, (2) **untimely** snowfall in May

The **untimely** arrival of the storm ruined their plans for a picnic.

## overtake

*v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

*synonym*: surpass, outstrip, catch up with

(1) **overtake** a rival, (2) **overtake** a milestone

The race car driver knew he had to **overtake** the other drivers to win the race.

## resentment

*n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

*synonym*: bitterness, enmity, animosity

(1) abiding **resentment**, (2) bitter **resentment**

She felt **resentment** towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.

## bewilder

*v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

*synonym*: perplex, confound, puzzle

(1) **bewilder** the reader, (2) **bewilder** scientists

The complex instructions on the assignment sheet **bewilder** most students.

## firsthand

*adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

*synonym*: direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

## ambiguity

*n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

*synonym*: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

## landowner

*n.* a person or entity that owns the land, typically for agricultural or commercial use; a title or status indicating ownership of land

*synonym*: property owner, landlord, landholder

(1) feudalistic **landowner**, (2) absentee **landowner**

The large **landowner** had a team of foresters to manage the timber on his properties.

## evasive

*adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger

*synonym*: deceitful, ambiguous, unclear

(1) take **evasive** action, (2) an **evasive** answer

He admitted all wrongdoing without using any **evasive** words in his press conference.

### intolerable

*adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable

*synonym* : agonizing, insufferable, unbearable

(1) **intolerable** situation, (2) the heat is **intolerable**

Chronic pain from the side effects of treatment made her life **intolerable**.

### spellbound

*adj.* completely captivated or enchanted by something or someone; held under a powerful or magical spell

*synonym* : enraptured, captivated, entranced

(1) **spellbound** audience, (2) **spellbound** by her beauty

I was absolutely **spellbound** by the beauty of the sunset.

### acrobatic

*adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful

*synonym* : nimble, agile, flexible

(1) **acrobatic** leaps, (2) **acrobatic** skills

The **acrobatic** performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.

### haggle

*v.* to negotiate a deal or price by bargaining in a persistent and often argumentative way; to argue or dispute over a price or other terms of a transaction

*synonym* : bargain, negotiate, deal

(1) **haggle** over the price, (2) **haggle** at the flea market

I could **haggle** with the vendor and lower the item's price.

### swirl

*v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern

*synonym* : spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

### cannon

*n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting



*synonym*: artillery, gun, ordnance

(1) **cannon** salute, (2) **cannon** ball

The heavy **cannon** fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.

## conflate

v. to blend or fuse two or more things, often with the result of creating confusion or a loss of distinction between them; to mistakenly treat two separate entities as one

*synonym*: fuse, blend, merge

(1) **conflate** ideas, (2) **conflate** data

It's important not to **conflate** two issues when analyzing a complex situation.

## contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

*synonym*: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

## unreliable

*adj.* not able to be trusted or depended on

*synonym*: inconsistent, erratic, undependable

(1) prove **unreliable**, (2) **unreliable** source of information

By incorrect assumption, statistics can be notoriously **unreliable**.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. die an un\_\_\_\_\_ly death *adj.* happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
2. di\_\_\_\_\_t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
3. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed speech *adj.* lacking coherence or connectivity; not flowing smoothly or logically; disconnected or fragmented
4. the co\_\_\_\_\_e of an animal *n.* the dead body of a human being
5. unr\_\_\_\_\_le source of information *adj.* not able to be trusted or depended on
6. the heat is int\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable
7. an un\_\_\_\_\_ng mistake *adj.* without purpose or intent
8. conduct fi\_\_\_\_\_nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
9. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
10. an ev\_\_\_\_\_e answer *adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
11. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
12. a la\_\_\_\_\_th of relationships *n.* a complicated network of paths or passages, often with twists and turns, making it difficult to find one's way out

ANSWERS: 1. untimely, 2. distort, 3. disjointed, 4. corpse, 5. unreliable, 6. intolerable, 7. unwitting, 8. firsthand, 9. confuse, 10. evasive, 11. storytelling, 12. labyrinth

13. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed narrative *adj.* lacking coherence or connectivity; not flowing smoothly or logically; disconnected or fragmented
14. have gr\_\_\_\_\_ue design *adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
15. gr\_\_\_\_\_ue appearance *adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
16. sha\_\_\_\_\_per labor *n.* a farmer who cultivates a piece of land owned by someone else, usually in exchange for a share of the crops produced
17. out\_\_\_\_\_sh proposal *adj.* bizarre, strange, or unconventional in appearance, behavior, or thought, often in a way that is seen as foreign or exotic; unusual or strikingly different from what is expected or normal
18. ac\_\_\_\_\_ic leaps *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
19. bitter res\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
20. sp\_\_n social norms *v.* to reject or disdain with contempt; to refuse to accept or consider; to treat with disdain or neglect
21. spe\_\_\_\_\_nd by her beauty *adj.* completely captivated or enchanted by something or someone; held under a powerful or magical spell

ANSWERS: 13. disjointed, 14. grotesque, 15. grotesque, 16. sharecropper, 17. outlandish, 18. acrobatic, 19. resentment, 20. spurn, 21. spellbound

22. d\_\_e him into believing      *v.* to deceive or trick someone into believing something that is not true; to cheat or swindle someone; (noun) a person who has been deceived or tricked into believing something that is not true, often by someone who is trying to take advantage of them
23. market f\_\_y      *n.* intense and often violent anger
24. re\_\_\_\_\_ne the possibilities      *v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
25. s\_\_t beliefs      *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
26. spe\_\_\_\_\_nd audience      *adj.* completely captivated or enchanted by something or someone; held under a powerful or magical spell
27. ac\_\_\_\_\_ic skills      *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
28. per\_\_\_\_\_ng situation      *adj.* causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying
29. exaggerate in na\_\_\_\_\_on      *n.* the act or process of telling a story; the relating of a story or account
30. secret s\_\_t      *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 22. dupe, 23. fury, 24. reimagine, 25. sect, 26. spellbound, 27. acrobatic, 28. perplexing, 29. narration, 30. sect

31. con\_\_\_\_\_ed legal language      *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
32. co\_\_\_\_\_te ideas      *v.* to blend or fuse two or more things, often with the result of creating confusion or a loss of distinction between them; to mistakenly treat two separate entities as one
33. sp\_\_n invitations      *v.* to reject or disdain with contempt; to refuse to accept or consider; to treat with disdain or neglect
34. abiding res\_\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
35. con\_\_\_\_\_ct each other      *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
36. ov\_\_\_\_\_ke a milestone      *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
37. ha\_\_\_\_\_d by memories      *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
38. na\_\_\_\_\_e an event      *v.* to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media
39. golf ca\_\_y      *n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs

ANSWERS: 31. convoluted, 32. conflate, 33. spurn, 34. resentment, 35. contradict, 36. overtake, 37. haunted, 38. narrate, 39. caddy

40. int\_\_\_\_\_le situation *adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable
41. ob\_\_\_\_\_ve thoughts *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
42. ob\_\_\_\_\_on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
43. un\_\_\_\_\_ng victims *adj.* without purpose or intent
44. st\_\_\_\_\_rn stains *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
45. feudalistic la\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person or entity that owns the land, typically for agricultural or commercial use; a title or status indicating ownership of land
46. co\_\_\_\_\_te data *v.* to blend or fuse two or more things, often with the result of creating confusion or a loss of distinction between them; to mistakenly treat two separate entities as one
47. ca\_\_\_\_\_n salute *n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
48. in\_\_\_\_\_ve approach *adj.* able to come up with novel and unique ideas

ANSWERS: 40. intolerable, 41. obsessive, 42. obsession, 43. unwitting, 44. stubborn, 45. landowner, 46. conflate, 47. cannon, 48. inventive

49. na\_\_\_\_\_on of events *n.* the act or process of telling a story; the relating of a story or account
50. sw\_\_l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
51. un\_\_\_\_\_ly snowfall in May *adj.* happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
52. avoid am\_\_\_\_\_ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
53. ha\_\_\_e at the flea market *v.* to negotiate a deal or price by bargaining in a persistent and often argumentative way; to argue or dispute over a price or other terms of a transaction
54. sto\_\_\_\_\_ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
55. con\_\_\_\_\_ct the principle *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
56. free from am\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
57. d\_\_e the public *v.* to deceive or trick someone into believing something that is not true; to cheat or swindle someone; (noun) a person who has been deceived or tricked into believing something that is not true, often by someone who is trying to take advantage of them
58. ob\_\_\_\_\_ve-compulsive disorder *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

ANSWERS: 49. narration, 50. swirl, 51. untimely, 52. ambiguity, 53. haggle, 54. storytelling, 55. contradict, 56. ambiguity, 57. dupe, 58. obsessive

59. ov\_\_\_\_ke a rival      *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
60. have the in\_\_\_\_\_ve talent      *adj.* able to come up with novel and unique ideas
61. con\_\_\_\_\_ted leaving school      *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
62. fo\_\_\_\_\_re myth      *n.* traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and songs of a community, passed down orally
63. ca\_\_y spoon      *n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs
64. national ob\_\_\_\_\_on      *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
65. di\_\_\_\_\_t the facts      *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
66. prove unr\_\_\_\_\_le      *adj.* not able to be trusted or depended on
67. ha\_\_\_e over the price      *v.* to negotiate a deal or price by bargaining in a persistent and often argumentative way; to argue or dispute over a price or other terms of a transaction

ANSWERS: 59. overtake, 60. inventive, 61. contemplate, 62. folklore, 63. caddy, 64. obsession, 65. distort, 66. unreliable, 67. haggle



68. co\_\_\_\_\_e the listener  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
69. take ev\_\_\_\_\_e action  
*adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
70. be\_\_\_\_\_er the reader  
*v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
71. con\_\_\_\_\_ed plot  
*adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
72. be\_\_\_\_\_er scientists  
*v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
73. st\_\_\_\_\_rn attitude  
*adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
74. hear customer's voices fi\_\_\_\_\_nd  
*adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
75. desiccated co\_\_\_\_\_e  
*n.* the dead body of a human being
76. re\_\_\_\_\_ne the future  
*v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
77. out\_\_\_\_\_sh behavior  
*adj.* bizarre, strange, or unconventional in appearance, behavior, or thought, often in a way that is seen as foreign or exotic; unusual or strikingly different from what is expected or normal
78. na\_\_\_\_\_e a news article  
*v.* to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

ANSWERS: 68. confuse, 69. evasive, 70. bewilder, 71. convoluted, 72. bewilder, 73. stubborn, 74. firsthand, 75. corpse, 76. reimagine, 77. outlandish, 78. narrate

79. con\_\_\_\_\_te a marriage      *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
80. f\_\_y of the storm      *n.* intense and often violent anger
81. sha\_\_\_\_\_per system      *n.* a farmer who cultivates a piece of land owned by someone else, usually in exchange for a share of the crops produced
82. per\_\_\_\_\_ng problem      *adj.* causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying
83. absentee la\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* a person or entity that owns the land, typically for agricultural or commercial use; a title or status indicating ownership of land
84. la\_\_\_\_\_thine pathways      *n.* a complicated network of paths or passages, often with twists and turns, making it difficult to find one's way out
85. sw\_\_l up dirt and dust      *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
86. ca\_\_\_n ball      *n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
87. ha\_\_\_\_\_d house      *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
88. fo\_\_\_\_\_re tradition      *n.* traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and songs of a community, passed down orally

ANSWERS: 79. contemplate, 80. fury, 81. sharecropper, 82. perplexing, 83. landowner, 84. labyrinth, 85. swirl, 86. cannon, 87. haunted, 88. folklore

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ his advances and walked away.  
*v.* to reject or disdain with contempt; to refuse to accept or consider; to treat with disdain or neglect
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ sculpture made me feel uneasy.  
*adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
3. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ me into buying a product that didn't work.  
*v.* to deceive or trick someone into believing something that is not true; to cheat or swindle someone; (noun) a person who has been deceived or tricked into believing something that is not true, often by someone who is trying to take advantage of them
4. The chef expertly \_\_\_\_\_ the sauce onto the plate.  
*v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
5. The crowd's \_\_\_\_\_ was palpable as they shouted and protested against the government's decision.  
*n.* intense and often violent anger
6. He admitted all wrongdoing without using any \_\_\_\_\_ words in his press conference.  
*adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
7. Many \_\_\_\_\_ in the South were impoverished and trapped in a cycle of debt.  
*n.* a farmer who cultivates a piece of land owned by someone else, usually in exchange for a share of the crops produced

ANSWERS: 1. spurned, 2. grotesque, 3. dupe, 4. swirled, 5. fury, 6. evasive, 7. sharecroppers

8. It was easy to get lost in the \_\_\_\_\_ of narrow alleyways in the old city.  
*n.* a complicated network of paths or passages, often with twists and turns, making it difficult to find one's way out
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.  
*adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
10. Her \_\_\_\_\_ behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.  
*adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.  
*n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
12. The manager tried to hear customers' voices \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
13. The tea \_\_\_\_\_ was a beautiful antique with intricate designs carved into the wood.  
*n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs
14. The heavy \_\_\_\_\_ fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.  
*n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
15. James Joyce's books are full of long, \_\_\_\_\_ sentences.  
*adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

ANSWERS: 8. labyrinth, 9. acrobatic, 10. obsessive, 11. ambiguity, 12. firsthand, 13. caddy, 14. cannon, 15. convoluted

16. The company is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ its business model to stay competitive.  
*v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
17. She felt \_\_\_\_\_ towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.  
*n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ arrival of the storm ruined their plans for a picnic.  
*adj.* happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
19. I could \_\_\_\_\_ with the vendor and lower the item's price.  
*v.* to negotiate a deal or price by bargaining in a persistent and often argumentative way; to argue or dispute over a price or other terms of a transaction
20. His \_\_\_\_\_ of the story was engaging and captivating.  
*n.* the act or process of telling a story; the relating of a story or account
21. The police found the \_\_\_\_\_ in the abandoned building.  
*n.* the dead body of a human being
22. It's important not to \_\_\_\_\_ two issues when analyzing a complex situation.  
*v.* to blend or fuse two or more things, often with the result of creating confusion or a loss of distinction between them; to mistakenly treat two separate entities as one
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ plot of the movie left many viewers needing clarification and satisfaction.  
*adj.* lacking coherence or connectivity; not flowing smoothly or logically; disconnected or fragmented

ANSWERS: 16. reimagine, 17. resentment, 18. untimely, 19. haggle, 20. narration, 21. corpse, 22. conflate, 23. disjointed

24. He was so \_\_\_\_\_ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.  
*adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
25. I was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ by the beauty of the sunset.  
*adj.* completely captivated or enchanted by something or someone; held under a powerful or magical spell
26. The minority \_\_\_\_\_ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.  
*n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
27. The large \_\_\_\_\_ had a team of foresters to manage the timber on his properties.  
*n.* a person or entity that owns the land, typically for agricultural or commercial use; a title or status indicating ownership of land
28. Gambling became an \_\_\_\_\_ for him, and he eventually lost everything.  
*n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
29. The novel's ambiguous ending left readers with a \_\_\_\_\_ message.  
*adj.* causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying
30. The complex instructions on the assignment sheet \_\_\_\_\_ most students.  
*v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

ANSWERS: 24. stubborn, 25. spellbound, 26. sect, 27. landowner, 28. obsession, 29. perplexing, 30. bewilder

31. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

32. Chronic pain from the side effects of treatment made her life \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable

33. 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

34. Economists contend that taxes \_\_\_\_\_ consumer behavior in general.

*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

35. All language around the world is consistently \_\_\_\_\_ but not intrusive.

*adj.* able to come up with novel and unique ideas

36. The race car driver knew he had to \_\_\_\_\_ the other drivers to win the race.

*v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

37. By incorrect assumption, statistics can be notoriously \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* not able to be trusted or depended on

38. His rudeness was \_\_\_\_\_ not intentional.

*adj.* without purpose or intent

ANSWERS: 31. confused, 32. intolerable, 33. haunted, 34. distort, 35. inventive, 36. overtake, 37. unreliable, 38. unwitting,



39. The audiobook hired a professional actor to \_\_\_\_\_ the story, making it more engaging for listeners.

- v.* to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

40. I recently \_\_\_\_\_ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

- v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

41. The book contains numerous statements that \_\_\_\_\_ previous reports.

- v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

42. The \_\_\_\_\_ outfit drew the attention of everyone in the room.

- adj.* bizarre, strange, or unconventional in appearance, behavior, or thought, often in a way that is seen as foreign or exotic; unusual or strikingly different from what is expected or normal

43. The area's \_\_\_\_\_ tells of a ghost that haunts the old mill.

- n.* traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and songs of a community, passed down orally

44. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

- n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

ANSWERS: 39. narrate, 40. contemplated, 41. contradict, 42. outlandish, 43. folklore, 44. storytelling