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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Deutsch: After billions of years of monotony,
the universe is waking up | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

incomprehensible

adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended

synonym: unintelligible, unfathomable, inexplicable

(1) **incomprehensible** jargon, (2) **incomprehensible** math problem

The mathematical formula was **incomprehensible** to most of the students.

enlightenment

n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge

synonym: civilization, awareness, sophistication

(1) spiritual **enlightenment**, (2) **enlightenment** activity

He finally brought his **enlightenment** to perfection.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation **descendant**

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

pessimism

n. a tendency to see the worst in things and anticipate adverse outcomes; a belief that the world is generally

bad or that something will go wrong more often than it will go right

synonym: negativity, defeatism, cynicism

(1) deep **pessimism**, (2) sense of **pessimism**

The CEO's constant **pessimism** about the company's future affected employee morale.

enigmatic

adj. difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling

synonym: mysterious, puzzling, cryptic

(1) **enigmatic** smile, (2) **enigmatic** behavior

The **enigmatic** ancient civilization's disappearance remains unsolved.

chap

n. a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind

synonym: fellow, guy, crack

(1) **chap** stick, (2) nice **chap**

He suffered a painful **chap** on his hand after working with chemicals.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym: outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

asteroid

n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

synonym: minor planet, planetoid, rocky planetesimal

(1) **asteroid** mining, (2) **asteroid** explorer

Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the **asteroid** belt to understand the early solar system better.

sage

n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

synonym: philosopher, scholar, thinker

(1) a **sage** of long ago, (2) a **sage** counselor

He was famous for his **sage** advice to younger entrepreneurs.

insignificant

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

synonym: unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

grueling

adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

synonym: exhausting, draining, demanding

(1) **grueling** process, (2) a **grueling** campaign

The marathon was a **grueling** test of endurance.

agony

n. extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense

synonym: anguish, torment, suffering

(1) severe **agony**, (2) emotional **agony**

The athlete fell to the ground in **agony** after injuring their ankle.

grandiose

adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way

synonym: elaborate, impressive, grandiloquent

(1) **grandiose** project, (2) make a **grandiose** claim

The **grandiose** mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.

monotony

n. a situation in which something unchanging and boring
synonym: boredom, tedium, sameness

(1) the **monotony** of the daily routine, (2) break the **monotony**

The **monotony** of the assembly line work made the days feel very long.

battleground

n. a place where a battle is fought
synonym: arena, field, theater

(1) **battleground** states, (2) the legal **battleground**

The city became a **battleground** during the war.

dogma

n. a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
synonym: doctrine, tenet, creed

(1) religious **dogma**, (2) the secret **dogma**

All members strictly followed the **dogma** of the organization.

entropy

n. a scientific concept that is most commonly associated with a state of disorder, randomness, or uncertainty
synonym: randomness

(1) **entropy** calculation, (2) **entropy** conservation

Since the second law of thermodynamics is applicable to the universe, the **entropy** of the universe continues to increase.

bleak

adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
synonym: miserable, pathetic, dim

(1) prospects were **bleak**, (2) **bleak** future

The political landscape looks **bleak** without a change of administration.

villain

n. a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel

synonym : scoundrel, rogue, antagonist

(1) evil **villain**, (2) authoritarian **villain**

The **villain** in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.

preordain

v. to determine or decree something in advance; to believe or accept that an outcome is predetermined by a higher power or fate

synonym : predestine, predetermine, fate

(1) **preordain** the sequence of events, (2) **preordain** my future

Some people believe that a higher power **preordains** everything that happens in life.

inexorable

adj. describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect

synonym : relentless, implacable, unyielding

(1) **inexorable** decline, (2) **inexorable** force

His **inexorable** determination to succeed made him a force to be reckoned with.

thermodynamics

n. the area of physics that deals with heat, work, and temperature and their relation to energy, entropy, and the physical properties of matter and radiation

(1) applied **thermodynamics**, (2) the laws of **thermodynamics**

The second law of **thermodynamics** denies the existence of a perpetual motion engine.

wasteful

adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense

synonym :

uneconomical, extravagant, profligate

(1) **wasteful** practices, (2) **wasteful** habits

Buying new clothes every week is a **wasteful** use of money and resources.

shred

v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

synonym: rip up, tear up, cut

(1) **shred** paper into little pieces, (2) **shred** lettuce for a salad

There is not a **shred** of evidence that he is guilty.

pessimistic

adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

synonym: cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

prophecy

n. a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader

synonym: prediction, foretelling, divination

(1) **prophecy** fulfillment, (2) **prophecy** of doom

The fortune teller's **prophecy** that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.

mislead

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy

Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

portray

v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

synonym: depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

astronomical

adj. relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

synonym : huge, vast, enormous

(1) **astronomical** observation, (2) **astronomical** numbers

The cost of the new equipment was **astronomical** and beyond the company's budget.

inconsequential

adj. of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

synonym : insignificant, trivial, minor

(1) **inconsequential** details, (2) **inconsequential** effect

The mistake was **inconsequential** and did not significantly impact the outcome.

chalk

n. a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards

synonym : white rock, limestone, gypsum

(1) a piece of **chalk**, (2) **chalk** on a blackboard

The kids used colored **chalk** to create a mural on the pavement.

unaffected

adj. not influenced or emotionally impacted by external factors or events; calm, composed, and emotionally stable

synonym : untouched, unaffected, unaltered

(1) **unaffected** by weather, (2) emotionally **unaffected**

Despite the chaos around her, she remained **unaffected** and focused.

lifeless

adj. without life; dead

synonym : inanimate, inert, motionless

(1) fall **lifeless**, (2) a **lifeless** corpse

The plant had a **lifeless** appearance, indicating that it was

not getting enough water.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

biosphere

n. the part of the Earth and its atmosphere in which living organisms exist, including plants, animals, and microorganisms

synonym: ecosphere, ecospace, ecosystem

(1) terrestrial **biosphere**, (2) artificial **biosphere**

The balance of the **biosphere** is crucial for the survival of species.

retrodiction

n. the act of explaining or interpreting past events, often based on current knowledge or understanding, essentially the opposite of prediction

synonym: back projection, postcognition

(1) **retrodiction** method, (2) **retrodiction** analysis

The paleontologist used the principles of **retrodiction** to infer the behaviors of dinosaurs based on current fossil evidence.

comet

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

synonym: meteor, asteroid, meteoroid

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

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

disproportionate

adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence

synonym: undeserved, unequal, superfluous

(1) cause **disproportionate** damage, (2) **disproportionate** amount

This big gate is **disproportionate** to the small hut.

photosynthesis

n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

(1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

viol

n. a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba

synonym: viola, viola da gamba, string instrument

(1) **viol** instrument, (2) **viol** music

The **viol** player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.

nemesis

n. an archenemy, opponent, or rival who is often seen as a personification of retribution or divine justice; a downfall or undoing that is a consequence of one's actions

synonym: foe, adversary, rival

(1) personal **nemesis**, (2) athletic **nemesis**

The CEO's **nemesis** was a competing business that refused to go out of business.

cosmology

n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

synonym: cosmogony

(1) physical **cosmology**, (2) modern **cosmology**

Cosmology evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.

stasis

n. a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

synonym: stillness, inactivity, stagnation

(1) renal **stasis**, (2) **stasis** in development

The patient's **stasis** in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.

destine

- v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

synonym: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. ins_____ant amount | <i>adj.</i> of little importance, influence, or power |
| 2. sh__d lettuce for a salad | <i>v.</i> to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount |
| 3. sense of pe_____sm | <i>n.</i> a tendency to see the worst in things and anticipate adverse outcomes; a belief that the world is generally bad or that something will go wrong more often than it will go right |
| 4. ret_____ion method | <i>n.</i> the act of explaining or interpreting past events, often based on current knowledge or understanding, essentially the opposite of prediction |
| 5. the laws of the_____ics | <i>n.</i> the area of physics that deals with heat, work, and temperature and their relation to energy, entropy, and the physical properties of matter and radiation |
| 6. cause dis_____ate damage | <i>adj.</i> too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence |
| 7. st___s in development | <i>n.</i> a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease |
| 8. a s__e of long ago | <i>n.</i> a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb |

ANSWERS: 1. insignificant, 2. shred, 3. pessimism, 4. retrodiction, 5. thermodynamics, 6. disproportionate, 7. stasis, 8. sage

9. pr_____in my future *v.* to determine or decree something in advance; to believe or accept that an outcome is predetermined by a higher power or fate
10. nice c__p *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
11. wa_____ul practices *adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
12. accurately po_____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
13. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
14. inc_____ble jargon *adj.* impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
15. c__p stick *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
16. bl__k future *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope

ANSWERS: 9. preordain, 10. chap, 11. wasteful, 12. portray, 13. ancestor, 14. incomprehensible, 15. chap, 16. bleak

17. an ins_____ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
18. pr_____cy of doom *n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
19. spiritual enl_____ent *n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
20. a s__e counselor *n.* a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
21. emotionally una_____ed *adj.* not influenced or emotionally impacted by external factors or events; calm, composed, and emotionally stable
22. bat_____und states *n.* a place where a battle is fought
23. ine_____le force *adj.* describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect
24. a piece of ch__k *n.* a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards
25. inc_____ial effect *adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible
26. de_____e us to meet again *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

ANSWERS: 17. insignificant, 18. prophecy, 19. enlightenment, 20. sage, 21. unaffected, 22. battleground, 23. inexorable, 24. chalk, 25. inconsequential, 26. destine

27. athletic ne____s *n.* an archenemy, opponent, or rival who is often seen as a personification of retribution or divine justice; a downfall or undoing that is a consequence of one's actions
28. a gr____ng campaign *adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
29. pes____ic for our survival *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
30. po____y feelings in words *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
31. as____id explorer *n.* a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
32. mi____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
33. ast____cal numbers *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
34. the legal bat____und *n.* a place where a battle is fought
35. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
36. coal fa____e *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
37. physical co____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

ANSWERS: 27. nemesis, 28. grueling, 29. pessimistic, 30. portray, 31. asteroid, 32. mislead, 33. astronomical, 34. battleground, 35. ancestor, 36. famine, 37. cosmology

38. religious do__a *n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
39. make a gr_____se claim *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
40. enl_____ent activity *n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
41. ch__k on a blackboard *n.* a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards
42. una_____ed by weather *adj.* not influenced or emotionally impacted by external factors or events; calm, composed, and emotionally stable
43. take a pes_____ic view of life *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
44. ret_____ion analysis *n.* the act of explaining or interpreting past events, often based on current knowledge or understanding, essentially the opposite of prediction
45. gr_____ng process *adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
46. v__l music *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
47. break the mo_____ny *n.* a situation in which something unchanging and boring

ANSWERS: 38. dogma, 39. grandiose, 40. enlightenment, 41. chalk, 42. unaffected, 43. pessimistic, 44. retrodiction, 45. grueling, 46. viol, 47. monotony

48. personal ne____s *n.* an archenemy, opponent, or rival who is often seen as a personification of retribution or divine justice; a downfall or undoing that is a consequence of one's actions
49. authoritarian vi____n *n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
50. evil vi____n *n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
51. des____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
52. fall li____ss *adj.* without life; dead
53. gr____se project *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
54. the surface of the co__t *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
55. inc_____ble math problem *adj.* impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
56. mi____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
57. modern co____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
58. the secret do__a *n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted

ANSWERS: 48. nemesis, 49. villain, 50. villain, 51. descendant, 52. lifeless, 53. grandiose, 54. comet, 55. incomprehensible, 56. mislead, 57. cosmology, 58. dogma

59. ine_____le decline *adj.* describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect
60. en_____y calculation *n.* a scientific concept that is most commonly associated with a state of disorder, randomness, or uncertainty
61. v__l instrument *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
62. applied the_____ics *n.* the area of physics that deals with heat, work, and temperature and their relation to energy, entropy, and the physical properties of matter and radiation
63. artificial bi_____re *n.* the part of the Earth and its atmosphere in which living organisms exist, including plants, animals, and microorganisms
64. en_____ic smile *adj.* difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling
65. sh__d paper into little pieces *v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
66. be de_____ed to become a great artist *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
67. flu pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

ANSWERS: 59. inexorable, 60. entropy, 61. viol, 62. thermodynamics, 63. biosphere, 64. enigmatic, 65. shred, 66. destine, 67. pandemic

68. deep pe_____sm *n.* a tendency to see the worst in things and anticipate adverse outcomes; a belief that the world is generally bad or that something will go wrong more often than it will go right
69. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
70. process of pho_____sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
71. pr_____in the sequence of events *v.* to determine or decree something in advance; to believe or accept that an outcome is predetermined by a higher power or fate
72. wa_____ul habits *adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
73. emotional ag__y *n.* extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
74. severe ag__y *n.* extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
75. co__t Halley *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
76. terrestrial bi_____re *n.* the part of the Earth and its atmosphere in which living organisms exist, including plants, animals, and microorganisms

ANSWERS: 68. pessimism, 69. descendant, 70. photosynthesis, 71. preordain, 72. wasteful, 73. agony, 74. agony, 75. comet, 76. biosphere

77. global pa____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
78. pr____cy fulfillment *n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
79. ast____cal observation *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
80. the mo____ny of the daily routine *n.* a situation in which something unchanging and boring
81. en____y conservation *n.* a scientific concept that is most commonly associated with a state of disorder, randomness, or uncertainty
82. oxygenic pho____sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
83. renal st____s *n.* a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease
84. a li____ss corpse *adj.* without life; dead
85. dis____ate amount *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
86. en____ic behavior *adj.* difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling
87. as____id mining *n.* a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

ANSWERS: 77. pandemic, 78. prophecy, 79. astronomical, 80. monotony, 81. entropy, 82. photosynthesis, 83. stasis, 84. lifeless, 85. disproportionate, 86. enigmatic, 87. asteroid

88. inc_____ial details

adj. of little or no importance or significance;
trivial or negligible

89. prospects were bl__k

adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly
cold and damp; offering little or no hope

90. fa___e relief

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused
by drought, war, or economic reasons

ANSWERS: 88. inconsequential, 89. bleak, 90. famine

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He suffered a painful _____ on his hand after working with chemicals.
n. a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
2. The patient's _____ in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.
n. a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease
3. The kids used colored _____ to create a mural on the pavement.
n. a soft, white, porous sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate, often used for drawing or writing on surfaces such as blackboards
4. In _____ plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.
n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
5. The _____ in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.
n. a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
6. The _____ of the assembly line work made the days feel very long.
n. a situation in which something unchanging and boring
7. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

ANSWERS: 1. chap, 2. stasis, 3. chalk, 4. photosynthesis, 5. villain, 6. monotony, 7. mislead

8. _____ evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.
n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
9. The city became a _____ during the war.
n. a place where a battle is fought
10. The _____ mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.
adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
11. The plant had a _____ appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.
adj. without life; dead
12. The athlete fell to the ground in _____ after injuring their ankle.
n. extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
13. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
14. He was famous for his _____ advice to younger entrepreneurs.
n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
15. This big gate is _____ to the small hut.
adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence

ANSWERS: 8. Cosmology, 9. battleground, 10. grandiose, 11. lifeless, 12. agony, 13. descendants, 14. sage, 15. disproportionate

16. Some people believe that a higher power _____ everything that happens in life.
- v.* to determine or decree something in advance; to believe or accept that an outcome is predetermined by a higher power or fate
17. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.
- adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
18. There is not a _____ of evidence that he is guilty.
- v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
19. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
- v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
20. The marathon was a _____ test of endurance.
- adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
21. The paleontologist used the principles of _____ to infer the behaviors of dinosaurs based on current fossil evidence.
- n.* the act of explaining or interpreting past events, often based on current knowledge or understanding, essentially the opposite of prediction
22. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
- n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
23. The CEO's constant _____ about the company's future affected employee morale.
- n.* a tendency to see the worst in things and anticipate adverse outcomes; a belief that the world is generally bad or that something will go wrong more often than it will go right

ANSWERS: 16. preordains, 17. bleak, 18. shred, 19. portray, 20. grueling, 21. retrodiction, 22. famine, 23. pessimism

24. He made me feel small and _____.

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

25. The mathematical formula was _____ to most of the students.

adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended

26. The balance of the _____ is crucial for the survival of species.

n. the part of the Earth and its atmosphere in which living organisms exist, including plants, animals, and microorganisms

27. The _____ player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.

n. a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba

28. Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the _____ belt to understand the early solar system better.

n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

29. The second law of _____ denies the existence of a perpetual motion engine.

n. the area of physics that deals with heat, work, and temperature and their relation to energy, entropy, and the physical properties of matter and radiation

30. The _____ bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

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

31. The fortune teller's _____ that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.

n. a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader

ANSWERS: 24. insignificant, 25. incomprehensible, 26. biosphere, 27. viol, 28. asteroid, 29. thermodynamics, 30. comet's, 31. prophecy

32. Buying new clothes every week is a _____ use of money and resources.
adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
33. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
34. The CEO's _____ was a competing business that refused to go out of business.
n. an archenemy, opponent, or rival who is often seen as a personification of retribution or divine justice; a downfall or undoing that is a consequence of one's actions
35. Despite the chaos around her, she remained _____ and focused.
adj. not influenced or emotionally impacted by external factors or events; calm, composed, and emotionally stable
36. Since the second law of thermodynamics is applicable to the universe, the _____ of the universe continues to increase.
n. a scientific concept that is most commonly associated with a state of disorder, randomness, or uncertainty
37. All members strictly followed the _____ of the organization.
n. a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
38. She was unduly _____ about her future.
adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

ANSWERS: 32. wasteful, 33. pandemic, 34. nemesis, 35. unaffected, 36. entropy, 37. dogma, 38. pessimistic

39. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

40. He finally brought his _____ to perfection.

n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge

41. Some people believe that we are all _____ for greatness.

v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

42. The _____ ancient civilization's disappearance remains unsolved.

adj. difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling

43. The mistake was _____ and did not significantly impact the outcome.

adj. of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

44. His _____ determination to succeed made him a force to be reckoned with.

adj. describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect

45. The cost of the new equipment was _____ and beyond the company's budget.

adj. relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

ANSWERS: 39. ancestor, 40. enlightenment, 41. destined, 42. enigmatic, 43. inconsequential, 44. inexorable, 45. astronomical