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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Pico Iyer: What ping-pong taught me about life | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

forehand

n. (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the palm facing forward is used to hit the ball on the dominant side of the body

(1) **forehand** volley, (2) **forehand** grip

He had a powerful **forehand** shot in tennis that his opponent couldn't return.

backhand

n. (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body

(1) **backhand** shot, (2) **backhand** grip

She hit a perfect **backhand** winner down the line to win the match.

collide

v. to hit something violently when moving
synonym: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair

The interests of the two countries **collide**.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

furious

adj. extremely angry; full of rage

synonym : angry, rageful, livid

(1) **furious** anger, (2) a **furious** sea

The coach was **furious** with the players for their lack of effort during the game.

exertion

n. the act of using one's energy, effort, or strength to achieve something; a physical or mental effort that produces a result

synonym : exercise, effort, struggle

(1) physical **exertion**, (2) **exertion** of energy

The intense **exertion** required to climb the mountain left him feeling exhausted.

geopolitical

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

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

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

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym : opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

diplomacy

n. the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way

synonym : tact, negotiation, delicacy

(1) the language of **diplomacy**, (2) the art of **diplomacy**

Effective **diplomacy** is necessary to resolve conflicts and maintain relationships between countries.

cork

n. a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for

bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper

synonym : stopper, bung, plug

(1) **cork** a bottle, (2) **cork** flooring

She used a **cork** board to display her favorite photographs.

exaggeration

n. an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

synonym : hyperbole, overstatement, embellishment

(1) sensational **exaggeration**, (2) minimal **exaggeration**

His story was filled with obvious **exaggerations**.

adept

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

synonym : proficient, masterful, experienced

(1) **adept** at fishing, (2) **adept** in handicrafts

She is highly **adept** with medical equipment.

standstill

n. a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources

synonym : halt, deadlock, impasse

(1) transportation **standstill**, (2) economic **standstill**

The traffic accident caused a **standstill** on the highway for several hours.

umpire

n. a person, particularly in sports, who arbitrates or referee's a game, match, or competition; an impartial mediator or judge in a dispute or conflict

synonym : arbiter, referee, judge

(1) **umpire** decision, (2) fair **umpire**

The cricket **umpire** signaled a boundary by raising his arms.

dictate

v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

synonym : read out, prescribe, order

(1) **dictate** a letter to secretary, (2) **dictate** to the associate

The allies **dictated** the terms of surrender to the country.

spectacle

n. something or someone seen, especially a notable or unusual sight; an optical device consisting of a frame that houses a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision

synonym : marvel, sensation, phenomenon

(1) pretty **spectacle**, (2) **spectacle** lens

She could not help watching the sad **spectacle**.

paddle

n. a flat, usually wooden implement with a handle used for stirring, mixing, or beating a liquid or substance

synonym : oar, oarlock, scull

(1) **paddle** strokes, (2) canoe **paddle**

The **paddle** boarders glided across the crystal-clear waters of the cove.

pimple

n. a small, inflamed spot or swelling on the surface of the skin, typically caused by clogged pores or sebaceous glands; a colloquial term for an acne blemish

synonym : blemish, zit, spot

(1) **pimple** treatment, (2) get rid of a **pimple**

The **pimple** outbreak on his face made him feel self-conscious.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym : welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

postwar

adj. relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies

synonym : subsequent, aftermath

(1) **postwar** years, (2) **postwar** society

The **postwar** period was marked by economic growth and rebuilding efforts.

resurgence

n. the return or growth of something after a period of decline or disappearance

synonym : revival, recovery, rejuvenation

(1) **resurgence** in popularity, (2) **resurgence** of exports

After years of decline, the city is experiencing a **resurgence** in economic growth.

careen

v. to move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a particular direction

synonym : lurch, sway, stagger

(1) **careen** in rough seas, (2) **careens** downhill

The car **careened** off the road and crashed into a tree.

lob

v. to throw or hit a ball or object high into the air in a high, slow arc; to propel an object in a high, arcing trajectory

synonym : toss, throw, heave

(1) **lob** the bait into the water, (2) **lob** a grenade

I learned how to **lob** a tennis ball over the net during my first lesson.

flail

v. to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)

synonym : thrash, beat, whip

(1) **flail** in the strong winds, (2) **flail** at the air

The dancer's arms would **flail** gracefully as she moved to the music.

exult

v. to feel and express extreme happiness or great joy because something, especially someone's defeat or failure, has happened

synonym : rejoice, delight, jubilate

(1) **exult** over our rival, (2) **exult** at the victory

I **exulted** and wept for joy.

disconsolate

adj. deeply unhappy or dejected; without hope or comfort; unable to be consoled

synonym : unhappy, dejected, forlorn

(1) **disconsolate** mood, (2) look **disconsolate**

The widow remained **disconsolate** for months after her husband's death.

archrival

n. a principal rival that is especially fierce and long-standing, often in sports or business

synonym : nemesis, opponent, rival

(1) business **archrival**, (2) long-time **archrival**

The tennis match between the **archrivals** was highly anticipated and very intense.

mediocre

adj. of only average quality; not very good

synonym : average, ordinary, unimpressive

(1) **mediocre** performance, (2) a **mediocre** talent

He was considered a **mediocre** artist compared to others in his field.

spokesperson

n. a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

synonym : representative, interpreter, mouthpiece

(1) company **spokesperson**, (2) official **spokesperson**

The celebrity **spokesperson** made an appearance at the product launch event.

daring

adj. brave and taking risks

synonym : audacious, bold, venturesome

(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face
Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

soloist

n. a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer

synonym : solo performer, solo artist

(1) a vocal **soloist**, (2) **soloist** musician

The **soloist's** performance was the highlight of the concert.

startle

v. to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event

synonym : frighten, shock, surprise

(1) **startle** for a moment, (2) **startle** the world

The loud bang outside the window caused him to **startle** and spill his coffee.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym : open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

wildfire

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

synonym : blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym : discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

synonym: bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. res_____ce in popularity | <i>n.</i> the return or growth of something after a period of decline or disappearance |
| 2. thrown out into mi____r | <i>n.</i> some point in the air; above ground level |
| 3. make a da____g face | <i>adj.</i> brave and taking risks |
| 4. po____r years | <i>adj.</i> relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies |
| 5. dis_____ate mood | <i>adj.</i> deeply unhappy or dejected; without hope or comfort; unable to be consoled |
| 6. sensational exa_____ion | <i>n.</i> an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is |
| 7. pretty sp_____le | <i>n.</i> something or someone seen, especially a notable or unusual sight; an optical device consisting of a frame that houses a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision |
| 8. fl__l at the air | <i>v.</i> to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks) |

ANSWERS: 1. resurgence, 2. midair, 3. daring, 4. postwar, 5. disconsolate, 6. exaggeration, 7. spectacle, 8. flail

9. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
10. look dis_____ate *adj.* deeply unhappy or dejected; without hope or comfort; unable to be consoled
11. the art of di_____cy *n.* the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way
12. res_____ce of exports *n.* the return or growth of something after a period of decline or disappearance
13. pa___e strokes *n.* a flat, usually wooden implement with a handle used for stirring, mixing, or beating a liquid or substance
14. official spo_____son *n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
15. pi___e treatment *n.* a small, inflamed spot or swelling on the surface of the skin, typically caused by clogged pores or sebaceous glands; a colloquial term for an acne blemish
16. ad_____ry team *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
17. business ar_____al *n.* a principal rival that is especially fierce and long-standing, often in sports or business

ANSWERS: 9. sponge, 10. disconsolate, 11. diplomacy, 12. resurgence, 13. paddle, 14. spokesperson, 15. pimple, 16. adversary, 17. archrival

18. ask a co____se question *v.* to talk informally
19. ad__t in handicrafts *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
20. reduce geo_____cal risk *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
21. fair um___e *n.* a person, particularly in sports, who arbitrates or referee's a game, match, or competition; an impartial mediator or judge in a dispute or conflict
22. company spo_____son *n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
23. ca___ns downhill *v.* to move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a particular direction
24. get rid of a pi___e *n.* a small, inflamed spot or swelling on the surface of the skin, typically caused by clogged pores or sebaceous glands; a colloquial term for an acne blemish
25. l_b the bait into the water *v.* to throw or hit a ball or object high into the air in a high, slow arc; to propel an object in a high, arcing trajectory
26. canoe pa___e *n.* a flat, usually wooden implement with a handle used for stirring, mixing, or beating a liquid or substance
27. un___d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

ANSWERS: 18. converse, 19. adept, 20. geopolitical, 21. umpire, 22. spokesperson, 23. careen, 24. pimple, 25. lob, 26. paddle, 27. unfold

28. fu____s anger *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
29. ba____nd grip *n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body
30. ca____n in rough seas *v.* to move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a particular direction
31. wi____re spread *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
32. minimal exa______ion *n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
33. c__k a bottle *n.* a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper
34. co____e in midair *v.* to hit something violently when moving
35. political ad____ry *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
36. sp____le lens *n.* something or someone seen, especially a notable or unusual sight; an optical device consisting of a frame that houses a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision

ANSWERS: 28. furious, 29. backhand, 30. careen, 31. wildfire, 32. exaggeration, 33. cork, 34. collide, 35. adversary, 36. spectacle

37. da___g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
38. so____t musician *n.* a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
39. c__k flooring *n.* a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper
40. a vocal so____t *n.* a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
41. transportation sta____ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
42. physical ex____on *n.* the act of using one's energy, effort, or strength to achieve something; a physical or mental effort that produces a result
43. long-time ar____al *n.* a principal rival that is especially fierce and long-standing, often in sports or business
44. st____e for a moment *v.* to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
45. ad__t at fishing *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

ANSWERS: 37. daring, 38. soloist, 39. cork, 40. soloist, 41. standstill, 42. exertion, 43. archrival, 44. startle, 45. adept

46. di_____e a letter to secretary *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
47. ex__t over our rival *v.* to feel and express extreme happiness or great joy because something, especially someone's defeat or failure, has happened
48. fo_____nd grip *n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the palm facing forward is used to hit the ball on the dominant side of the body
49. st_____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
50. ba_____nd shot *n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body
51. a mi____r collision *n.* some point in the air; above ground level
52. fl__l in the strong winds *v.* to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)
53. me_____re performance *adj.* of only average quality; not very good
54. st_____e through life *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

ANSWERS: 46. dictate, 47. exult, 48. forehand, 49. stumble, 50. backhand, 51. midair, 52. flail, 53. mediocre, 54. stumble

55. um___e decision *n.* a person, particularly in sports, who arbitrates or referee's a game, match, or competition; an impartial mediator or judge in a dispute or conflict
56. po____r society *adj.* relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies
57. ex____on of energy *n.* the act of using one's energy, effort, or strength to achieve something; a physical or mental effort that produces a result
58. arson-caused wi____re *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
59. co____e head-on *v.* to hit something violently when moving
60. fo____nd volley *n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the palm facing forward is used to hit the ball on the dominant side of the body
61. st____e the world *v.* to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
62. a fu____s sea *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
63. economic sta____ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources

ANSWERS: 55. umpire, 56. postwar, 57. exertion, 58. wildfire, 59. collide, 60. forehand, 61. startle, 62. furious, 63. standstill

64. the geo_____cal situations *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
65. co_____se with an acquaintance *v.* to talk informally
66. gr__t an idea *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
67. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
68. un____d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
69. a me_____re talent *adj.* of only average quality; not very good
70. the language of di_____cy *n.* the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way
71. l_b a grenade *v.* to throw or hit a ball or object high into the air in a high, slow arc; to propel an object in a high, arcing trajectory
72. di_____e to the associate *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
73. ex__t at the victory *v.* to feel and express extreme happiness or great joy because something, especially someone's defeat or failure, has happened

ANSWERS: 64. geopolitical, 65. converse, 66. greet, 67. greet, 68. unfold, 69. mediocre, 70. diplomacy, 71. lob, 72. dictate, 73. exult

74. metallic sp___e

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

ANSWERS: 74. sponge

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The tennis match between the _____ was highly anticipated and very intense.
 - n.* a principal rival that is especially fierce and long-standing, often in sports or business

2. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.
 - v.* to talk informally

3. The _____ outbreak on his face made him feel self-conscious.
 - n.* a small, inflamed spot or swelling on the surface of the skin, typically caused by clogged pores or sebaceous glands; a colloquial term for an acne blemish

4. The country holds dominant _____ power over its neighbors.
 - adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

5. The intense _____ required to climb the mountain left him feeling exhausted.
 - n.* the act of using one's energy, effort, or strength to achieve something; a physical or mental effort that produces a result

6. The coach was _____ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.
 - adj.* extremely angry; full of rage

7. I learned how to ____ a tennis ball over the net during my first lesson.
 - v.* to throw or hit a ball or object high into the air in a high, slow arc; to propel an object in a high, arcing trajectory

ANSWERS: 1. archrivals, 2. converse, 3. pimple, 4. geopolitical, 5. exertion, 6. furious, 7. lob

8. His story was filled with obvious _____.
- n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
9. Her choices become increasingly _____ and creative.
- adj.* brave and taking risks
10. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
- v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
11. The _____ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.
- n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
12. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.
- n.* some point in the air; above ground level
13. She _____ over the tree root.
- v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
14. The cricket _____ signaled a boundary by raising his arms.
- n.* a person, particularly in sports, who arbitrates or referee's a game, match, or competition; an impartial mediator or judge in a dispute or conflict
15. The interests of the two countries _____.
- v.* to hit something violently when moving

ANSWERS: 8. exaggerations, 9. daring, 10. unfolded, 11. wildfire, 12. midair, 13. stumbled, 14. umpire, 15. collide

16. Effective _____ is necessary to resolve conflicts and maintain relationships between countries.
- n.* the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way
17. The allies _____ the terms of surrender to the country.
- v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
18. The traffic accident caused a _____ on the highway for several hours.
- n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
19. The _____ period was marked by economic growth and rebuilding efforts.
- adj.* relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies
20. After years of decline, the city is experiencing a _____ in economic growth.
- n.* the return or growth of something after a period of decline or disappearance
21. I _____ and wept for joy.
- v.* to feel and express extreme happiness or great joy because something, especially someone's defeat or failure, has happened
22. The _____ boarders glided across the crystal-clear waters of the cove.
- n.* a flat, usually wooden implement with a handle used for stirring, mixing, or beating a liquid or substance
23. She hit a perfect _____ winner down the line to win the match.
- n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body

ANSWERS: 16. diplomacy, 17. dictated, 18. standstill, 19. postwar, 20. resurgence, 21. exulted, 22. paddle, 23. backhand

24. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

25. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

26. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

27. The widow remained _____ for months after her husband's death.

adj. deeply unhappy or dejected; without hope or comfort; unable to be consoled

28. The celebrity _____ made an appearance at the product launch event.

n. a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

29. The car _____ off the road and crashed into a tree.

v. to move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a particular direction

30. She is highly _____ with medical equipment.

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

31. She used a _____ board to display her favorite photographs.

n. a type of light and buoyant material that comes from the bark of the cork oak tree often used as a stopper for bottles or as a material for insulation or flooring; (verb) to close or seal something with a cork or similar stopper

ANSWERS: 24. greeted, 25. adversary, 26. sponge, 27. disconsolate, 28. spokesperson, 29. careened, 30. adept, 31. cork

32. The dancer's arms would _____ gracefully as she moved to the music.
- v.* to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)
33. She could not help watching the sad _____.
- n.* something or someone seen, especially a notable or unusual sight; an optical device consisting of a frame that houses a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision
34. The _____ performance was the highlight of the concert.
- n.* a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
35. The loud bang outside the window caused him to _____ and spill his coffee.
- v.* to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
36. He had a powerful _____ shot in tennis that his opponent couldn't return.
- n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the palm facing forward is used to hit the ball on the dominant side of the body
37. He was considered a _____ artist compared to others in his field.
- adj.* of only average quality; not very good

ANSWERS: 32. flail, 33. spectacle, 34. soloist's, 35. startle, 36. forehand, 37. mediocre