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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Rosenthal: The joyful, perplexing world of puzzle hunts | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

intellect

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

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

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

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

masochist

n. someone who derives pleasure from their pain or suffering; one who enjoys being humiliated or degraded

(1) **masochist** tendencies, (2) **masochist** behavior

Some people are **masochists** who enjoy experiencing pain.

sudoku

n. a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle that typically consists of a 9x9 grid divided into nine 3x3 sub-grids and requires the solver to fill in each empty square with a number from 1-9, with the constraint that

no number can appear more than once in a row, column, or sub-grid

synonym : number puzzle, logic game, brain teaser

(1) the difficulty level of **sudoku**, (2) solve a **sudoku**

I enjoy solving **sudoku** puzzles in my free time.

deconstruct

v. to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning

synonym : break down, interpret, assay

(1) **deconstruct** the existing system, (2) **deconstruct** his method

She employed a rigorous intellectual framework to **deconstruct** various categories of literature.

illuminate

v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding

That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

obtuse

adj. lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees

synonym : dense, stupid, insensitive

(1) **obtuse** angle, (2) **obtuse** remarks

His **obtuse** reasoning made it difficult for me to understand his point of view.

solver

n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem

synonym : thinker

(1) puzzle- **solver**, (2) linear **solver**

The flow **solver** is validated against the experiment.

pristine

adj. new and completely free from dirt or contamination
synonym : chaste, pure, immaculate

(1) **pristine** beach, (2) maintain the **pristine** condition
It is terrific to camp in **pristine** nature.

crossword

n. a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues

(1) do a **crossword** puzzle, (2) good at **crossword** puzzles
He sat frowning over a **crossword** puzzle.

devious

adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
synonym : cunning, deceitful, tricky

(1) **devious** plot, (2) use **devious** methods
The **devious** plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.

descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
synonym : dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator
She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**
Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

enigma

n. a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution

synonym : mystery, puzzle, riddle

(1) mysterious **enigma**, (2) artistic **enigma**
The ancient text remains an **enigma**, challenging scholars to unravel its meaning.

wonderland

n. a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

synonym: fantasyland, dreamland, fairyland

(1) magical **wonderland**, (2) Alice's **wonderland**

The colorful garden was a **wonderland** of various plants and flowers.

whiteboard

n. a smooth, hard writing surface, typically white, that can be written on with dry-erase markers and easily erased

(1) **whiteboard** marker, (2) **whiteboard** animation

Let's brainstorm ideas on the **whiteboard** for the new project.

intelligible

adj. capable of being understood or apprehended

synonym: apprehensible, understandable, comprehensible

(1) **intelligible** pronunciation, (2) **intelligible** to anyone

He gave me an **intelligible** answer.

endgame

n. the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition

synonym: outcome, finale, conclusion

(1) **endgame** strategies, (2) chess **endgame**

The athlete's **endgame** was to win an Olympic gold medal before retiring from the sport

runaround

n. a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance

synonym: excuse, evasion, avoidance

(1) **runaround** excuses, (2) get a bureaucratic **runaround**

My boss has been giving me the **runaround** about my promotion for months.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

exhilarate

v. to make someone feel very happy, animated, or excited; to fill with energy or a sense of euphoria

synonym: excite, stimulate, invigorate

(1) **exhilarate** the crowd, (2) **exhilarate** the audience

The sense of accomplishment from completing a challenging hike can **exhilarate** those who love the great outdoors

deprivation

n. a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life

synonym: poverty, destitution, forfeiture

(1) chronic sleep **deprivation**, (2) **deprivation** of liberty

Losing him is great **deprivation** to our team.

alchemy

n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

synonym: sorcery, magic, transmutation

(1) **alchemy** experiment, (2) **alchemy** of emotions

Today, the study of **alchemy** remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

crumb

n. a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something

synonym: fragment, particle, bit

(1) **crumb** of information, (2) bread **crumb**

My dog found a **crumb** on the floor and quickly ate it.

matte

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

synonym : dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym : frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym : rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text

They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym : later, thereafter, following

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

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

reframe

v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way

synonym : redefine, restructure, reposition

(1) **reframe** resource allocation, (2) **reframe** problem

The therapist tried to **reframe** his negative thoughts.

waggle

v. to move or swing back and forth or from side to side in a playful or teasing manner; to move unsteadily or irregularly

synonym : wiggle, sway, joggle

(1) **waggle** my backside, (2) **waggle** fingers

The bird would **waggle** its tail feathers excitedly when it saw

its favorite food.

constellation

n. a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

synonym : asterism, array, pattern

(1) the stars of the Scorpion **constellation**, (2) northern **constellation**

Navigators still use the Little Bear **constellation** at sea.

celestial

adj. relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens

synonym : heavenly, divine, ethereal

(1) **celestial** bliss, (2) **celestial** navigation

The **celestial** bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.

cosmos

n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

synonym : universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**

Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

cluck

v. to make the sound that a hen makes; to express disapproval or scorn by making a clicking noise with the tongue and teeth

synonym : clack, chirp, click

(1) **cluck** disapprovingly, (2) **clucked** in disbelief

The mother hen would **cluck** loudly to gather her chicks around her.

cutaway

n. a section removed from an object or structure to show the internal workings or details; a break in a film or television show to insert footage of a different scene or film

synonym : section, cutout, excerpt

(1) **cutaway** collar, (2) **cutaway** view

The fashion designer included a **cutaway** section on the dress to show off the intricate details.

reminiscent

adj. making you remember someone or something; relating to the recall of personal interests

synonym: evocative, remindful, redolent

(1) **reminiscent** of ancient times, (2) **reminiscent** smile

His painting style is **reminiscent** of Monet's

synchronize

v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

synonym: coordinate, accompany, harmonize

(1) **synchronize** movements, (2) **synchronize** our watches

The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly **synchronized**.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

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.

exhaustion

n. the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength

synonym: fatigue, weariness, tiredness

(1) **exhaustion** of energy, (2) emotional **exhaustion**

The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental **exhaustion**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. origin of the co___s | <i>n.</i> another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system |
| 2. wa___e my backside | <i>v.</i> to move or swing back and forth or from side to side in a playful or teasing manner; to move unsteadily or irregularly |
| 3. int_____ble pronunciation | <i>adj.</i> capable of being understood or apprehended |
| 4. wa___e fingers | <i>v.</i> to move or swing back and forth or from side to side in a playful or teasing manner; to move unsteadily or irregularly |
| 5. per_____ng problem | <i>adj.</i> causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying |
| 6. emotional exh_____on | <i>n.</i> the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength |
| 7. talented ph_____st | <i>n.</i> a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 8. new se_____rs | <i>n.</i> a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area |
| 9. re_____e resource allocation | <i>v.</i> to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way |

ANSWERS: 1. cosmos, 2. waggle, 3. intelligible, 4. waggle, 5. perplexing, 6. exhaustion, 7. physicist, 8. settler, 9. reframe

10. cl__ked in disbelief *v.* to make the sound that a hen makes; to express disapproval or scorn by making a clicking noise with the tongue and teeth
11. dec_____ct the existing system *v.* to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning
12. de_____d by elevator *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
13. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
14. cu_____y collar *n.* a section removed from an object or structure to show the internal workings or details; a break in a film or television show to insert footage of a different scene or film
15. ma_____st tendencies *n.* someone who derives pleasure from their pain or suffering; one who enjoys being humiliated or degraded
16. do a cr_____rd puzzle *n.* a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues
17. whi_____rd marker *n.* a smooth, hard writing surface, typically white, that can be written on with dry-erase markers and easily erased

ANSWERS: 10. cluck, 11. deconstruct, 12. descend, 13. intellect, 14. cutaway, 15. masochist, 16. crossword, 17. whiteboard

18. magical won_____nd *n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
19. en_____e strategies *n.* the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition
20. ill_____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
21. exh_____te the crowd *v.* to make someone feel very happy, animated, or excited; to fill with energy or a sense of euphoria
22. ce_____al bliss *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
23. exh_____te the audience *v.* to make someone feel very happy, animated, or excited; to fill with energy or a sense of euphoria
24. cl__k disapprovingly *v.* to make the sound that a hen makes; to express disapproval or scorn by making a clicking noise with the tongue and teeth
25. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
26. chronic sleep dep_____on *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life

ANSWERS: 18. wonderland, 19. endgame, 20. illuminate, 21. exhilarate, 22. celestial, 23. exhilarate, 24. cluck, 25. reconstruct, 26. deprivation

38. dec_____ct his method *v.* to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning
39. Alice's won_____nd *n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
40. ob___e remarks *adj.* lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees
41. n__d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
42. photo with a ma___e finish *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
43. solve a su___u *n.* a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle that typically consists of a 9x9 grid divided into nine 3x3 sub-grids and requires the solver to fill in each empty square with a number from 1-9, with the constraint that no number can appear more than once in a row, column, or sub-grid

ANSWERS: 38. deconstruct, 39. wonderland, 40. obtuse, 41. nerd, 42. matte, 43. sudoku

44. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
45. al_____y experiment *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
46. cr__b of information *n.* a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something
47. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
48. al_____y of emotions *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
49. get a bureaucratic ru_____nd *n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance

ANSWERS: 44. physicist, 45. alchemy, 46. crumb, 47. improvisation, 48. alchemy, 49. runaround

50. the stars of the Scorpion
con_____ion
51. exh_____on of energy
52. the difficulty level of su___u
53. good at cr_____rd puzzles
54. mysterious en___a
55. rec_____ct an image
56. linear so___r
- n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
- n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
- n.* a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle that typically consists of a 9x9 grid divided into nine 3x3 sub-grids and requires the solver to fill in each empty square with a number from 1-9, with the constraint that no number can appear more than once in a row, column, or sub-grid
- n.* a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues
- n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
- v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
- n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem

ANSWERS: 50. constellation, 51. exhaustion, 52. sudoku, 53. crossword, 54. enigma, 55. reconstruct, 56. solver

57. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
58. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
59. ma_____st behavior *n.* someone who derives pleasure from their pain or suffering; one who enjoys being humiliated or degraded
60. use de_____s methods *adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
61. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
62. per_____ng situation *adj.* causing confusion or uncertainty; difficult to understand or explain; puzzling or mystifying
63. dep_____on of liberty *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
64. ce_____al navigation *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
65. ru_____nd excuses *n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance
66. rem_____nt smile *adj.* making you remember someone or something; relating to the recall of personal interests

ANSWERS: 57. improvisation, 58. nerd, 59. masochist, 60. devious, 61. afterward, 62. perplexing, 63. deprivation, 64. celestial, 65. runaround, 66. reminiscent

67. ma__e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
68. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
69. whi_____rd animation *n.* a smooth, hard writing surface, typically white, that can be written on with dry-erase markers and easily erased
70. exploration of co___s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
71. ob___e angle *adj.* lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees
72. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
73. cu_____y view *n.* a section removed from an object or structure to show the internal workings or details; a break in a film or television show to insert footage of a different scene or film
74. int_____ble to anyone *adj.* capable of being understood or apprehended
75. puzzle-so___r *n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
76. northern con_____ion *n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

ANSWERS: 67. matte, 68. afterward, 69. whiteboard, 70. cosmos, 71. obtuse, 72. terrify, 73. cutaway, 74. intelligible, 75. solver, 76. constellation

77. artistic en___a *n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
78. de____d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
79. se____rs on some foreign shore *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
80. maintain the pr____ne condition *adj.* new and completely free from dirt or contamination

ANSWERS: 77. enigma, 78. descend, 79. settler, 80. pristine

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
 - n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

2. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
 - v.* to frighten someone very much

3. I enjoy solving _____ puzzles in my free time.
 - n.* a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle that typically consists of a 9x9 grid divided into nine 3x3 sub-grids and requires the solver to fill in each empty square with a number from 1-9, with the constraint that no number can appear more than once in a row, column, or sub-grid

4. He gave me an _____ answer.
 - adj.* capable of being understood or apprehended

5. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.
 - n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

6. The colorful garden was a _____ of various plants and flowers.
 - n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

7. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
 - adv.* after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 1. intellect, 2. terrify, 3. sudoku, 4. intelligible, 5. settler, 6. wonderland, 7. afterward

8. His painting style is _____ of Monet's

adj. making you remember someone or something; relating to the recall of personal interests

9. His _____ reasoning made it difficult for me to understand his point of view.

adj. lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees

10. Today, the study of _____ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

11. My boss has been giving me the _____ about my promotion for months.

n. a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance

12. The ancient text remains an _____ challenging scholars to unravel its meaning.

n. a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution

13. The sense of accomplishment from completing a challenging hike can _____ those who love the great outdoors

v. to make someone feel very happy, animated, or excited; to fill with energy or a sense of euphoria

ANSWERS: 8. reminiscent, 9. obtuse, 10. alchemy, 11. runaround, 12. enigma, 13. exhilarate

14. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the _____.
- n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
15. Let's brainstorm ideas on the _____ for the new project.
- n.* a smooth, hard writing surface, typically white, that can be written on with dry-erase markers and easily erased
16. The therapist tried to _____ his negative thoughts.
- v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
17. Losing him is great _____ to our team.
- n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
18. The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental _____.
- n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
19. Navigators still use the Little Bear _____ at sea.
- n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
20. Some people are _____ who enjoy experiencing pain.
- n.* someone who derives pleasure from their pain or suffering; one who enjoys being humiliated or degraded
21. She was _____ from an old Italian noble family.
- v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

ANSWERS: 14. cosmos, 15. whiteboard, 16. reframe, 17. deprivation, 18. exhaustion, 19. constellation, 20. masochists, 21. descended

22. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
23. The body of his car has a _____ finish.
adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
24. The athlete's _____ was to win an Olympic gold medal before retiring from the sport
n. the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition
25. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.
n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
26. The bird would _____ its tail feathers excitedly when it saw its favorite food.
v. to move or swing back and forth or from side to side in a playful or teasing manner; to move unsteadily or irregularly
27. The flow _____ is validated against the experiment.
n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
28. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
29. She employed a rigorous intellectual framework to _____ various categories of literature.
v. to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning

ANSWERS: 22. physicist, 23. matte, 24. endgame, 25. nerd, 26. waggle, 27. solver, 28. improvisation, 29. deconstruct

30. The mother hen would _____ loudly to gather her chicks around her.

- v.* to make the sound that a hen makes; to express disapproval or scorn by making a clicking noise with the tongue and teeth

31. The _____ bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.

- adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens

32. It is terrific to camp in _____ nature.

- adj.* new and completely free from dirt or contamination

33. The fashion designer included a _____ section on the dress to show off the intricate details.

- n.* a section removed from an object or structure to show the internal workings or details; a break in a film or television show to insert footage of a different scene or film

34. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.

- v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

35. My dog found a _____ on the floor and quickly ate it.

- n.* a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something

36. The _____ plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.

- adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky

37. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.

- v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

ANSWERS: 30. cluck, 31. celestial, 32. pristine, 33. cutaway, 34. illuminated, 35. crumb, 36. devious, 37. reconstruct

38. The novel's ambiguous ending left readers with a _____ message.

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

39. He sat frowning over a _____ puzzle.

n. a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues

40. The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly _____.

v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

ANSWERS: 38. perplexing, 39. crossword, 40. synchronized