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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James Bridle: The nightmare videos of children's YouTube -- and what's wrong with the internet today | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

intrigue

v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

synonym: attract, captivate, charm

(1) **intrigue** him, (2) **intrigue** against his rival

The artist's innovative style of work **intrigues** me.

undercount

v. to count something or someone as less than the actual or expected number, often due to inaccurate or incomplete data collection or measurement methods

synonym: underestimate, miscount, undervalue

(1) **undercount** the population, (2) **undercount** the number of deaths

The government's population survey consistently

undercounts the number of homeless people in the city.

baroque

adj. of or relating to an ornate and elaborate style of art, architecture, and music that flourished in Europe in the late 16th and early 17th centuries; characterized by a sense of grandeur and drama

synonym : ornate, elaborate, decorative

(1) **baroque** music, (2) **baroque** architecture

The ornate architecture of the palace is a perfect example of the **baroque** style.

dopamine

n. a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension

(1) **dopamine-inhibiting** agent, (2) antagonism of **dopamine**

The drug controls the level of **dopamine** in the brain.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym : respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym :

application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

paw

n. the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one

synonym : mitt, manus, talon

(1) **paw** print, (2) **paw** pad

The cat batted at the toy with its **paw**.

groan

v. to make a low, moaning sound, often indicating pain, discomfort, or dissatisfaction

synonym : moan, grunt, sigh

(1) **groan** in pain, (2) **groan** for water

The sight of the huge pile of laundry made me **groan** with dread.

earworm

n. a tune or melody that gets stuck in someone's head and repeats persistently and repeatedly; a type of insect that is known to burrow into the ears of corn plants

synonym : involuntary memory, brainworm, sticky tune

(1) **earworm** melody, (2) catchy **earworm**

I can't stop humming this **earworm** of a song that's been stuck in my head all day.

sear

v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

synonym : scorch, cook, burn

(1) **sear** tissue using a hot iron, (2) **sear** the memory into your mind

Be careful not to **sear** the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.

addict

n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

synonym: devotee, buff, freak

(1) a drug **addict**, (2) Internet **addict**

We have become TV **addicts** due to video streaming services.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

wholesome

adj. good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being

synonym: healthy, decent, nutrient

(1) **wholesome** ingredients, (2) live a **wholesome** lifestyle

His honesty wielded a **wholesome** influence on those around him.

entertainer

n. a performer who provides amusement or enjoyment to an audience, often through acting, music, dancing, or comedy

synonym: performer, artist, showman

(1) **entertainer** of the year, (2) comedy **entertainer**

The dancer is a talented **entertainer** who captivates her audience with graceful movements.

troll

n. a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

synonym: provocateur, antagonist, troublemaker

(1) feed a **troll**, (2) copyright **troll**

He was banned from the online forum for being a **troll** and causing trouble.

meaningless

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

synonym: pointless, absurd, senseless

(1) a **meaningless** endeavor, (2) do a **meaningless** task

This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.

mash

v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions;
(*noun*) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

synonym: crush, grind, pulverize

(1) **mash** his words, (2) potato **mash**

She **mashed** the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

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**.

endlessly

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

synonym: ceaselessly, interminably, unceasingly

(1) repeat **endlessly**, (2) worry **endlessly** about our future

The procession of demonstrators was **endlessly** continuing.

roost

n. a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop

synonym: perch, nest, roosting place

(1) wild **roost**, (2) bird **roost**

The chickens return to their **roost** at sunset every night.

superhero

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

(1) **superhero** movies, (2) **superhero** comics

Superman is a classic **superhero** known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

prank

n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others

synonym: hoax, trick, stunt

(1) **prank** caller, (2) harmless **prank**

The group of teenagers played an innocent **prank** on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.

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.

mung

v. to make a mess of, ruin, or destroy; to jumble or muddle something up; (noun, also "mung beans") small green legumes commonly used in Asian and Indian cuisines

synonym: crush, mash, pulp

(1) **mung** the entire database, (2) **mung** bean salad

Be careful not to **mung** the data when performing the system update.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

monetize

v. to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money

synonym: mint, make profit

(1) **monetize** my skill, (2) **monetize** nickel

He explored ways to **monetize** his digital content.

cancel

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

synonym: suppressor, scrutineer, examiner

(1) **cancel** a book, (2) **cancel** a TV program

The newspaper editor decided to **cancel** the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

unaccountable

adj. not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior

synonym: unexplainable, inexplicable, mysterious

(1) **unaccountable** behavior, (2) **unaccountable** decision

The **unaccountable** disappearance of funds led to an investigation.

underpaid

adj. paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

synonym: undervalued, under-compensated, under-rewarded

(1) **underpaid** mail, (2) **underpaid** position

Many people believe that they are **underpaid** for the work that they do.

precarious

adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

synonym: precariousness, instability, uncertainty

(1) **precarious** job, (2) **precarious** financial situation

She had a **precarious** hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.

opacity

n. the quality or state of being opaque (= not allowing light to pass through); a lack of transparency or clarity in a person's behavior, motives, or communication

synonym: translucency, cloudiness, opaqueness

(1) light **opacity**, (2) **opacity** level

The **opacity** of the company's financial statements raised suspicions of fraud.

undeniable

adj. not possible to deny; true or certain

synonym : absolute, definite, indubitable

(1) an **undeniable** fact, (2) an **undeniable** masterpiece

Her influence on teenagers is **undeniable**.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym : automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

overlord

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

synonym : master, tyrant, autocrat

(1) evil **overlord**, (2) colonial **overlord**

In the feudal system, the **overlord** owned most of the wealth.

glamorous

adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people

synonym : alluring, bewitching, enchanting

(1) **glamorous** movie stars, (2) cast **glamorous** eyes

The south coast is less **glamorous** yet has many clean and appealing hotels.

bridle

- n.* a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions

synonym : restraint, halter, headgear

(1) put a **bridle** on my tongue, (2) **bridle** horses

The horse would not cooperate and constantly fought against the **bridle**.

unpack

- v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

synonym : dissect, unwrap, unbox

(1) **unpack** a crate, (2) **unpack** a concept

I need to **unpack** my suitcase and put my clothes away.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pr__k caller *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
2. do a mea_____ss task *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
3. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
4. an_____e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
5. s__r tissue using a hot iron *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
6. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
7. un_____id mail *adj.* paid less than a fair or reasonable wage
8. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
9. gl_____us movie stars *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
10. put a br___e on my tongue *n.* a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions

ANSWERS: 1. prank, 2. meaningless, 3. terrify, 4. animate, 5. sear, 6. terrify, 7. underpaid, 8. drone, 9. glamorous, 10. bridle

11. ro____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
12. Internet ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
13. ba____e architecture *adj.* of or relating to an ornate and elaborate style of art, architecture, and music that flourished in Europe in the late 16th and early 17th centuries; characterized by a sense of grandeur and drama
14. feed a tr__l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
15. an____e his soul *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
16. potato m__h *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
17. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

ANSWERS: 11. robotic, 12. addict, 13. baroque, 14. troll, 15. animate, 16. mash, 17. nod

18. mo____ze nickel *v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
19. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
20. ce____r a book *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
21. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
22. un____k a crate *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
23. light op_____y *n.* the quality or state of being opaque (= not allowing light to pass through); a lack of transparency or clarity in a person's behavior, motives, or communication
24. a drug ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

ANSWERS: 18. monetize, 19. pretension, 20. censor, 21. pretension, 22. unpack, 23. opacity, 24. addict

25. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
26. ba_____e music *adj.* of or relating to an ornate and elaborate style of art, architecture, and music that flourished in Europe in the late 16th and early 17th centuries; characterized by a sense of grandeur and drama
27. p_w print *n.* the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one
28. pre_____us financial situation *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
29. an und_____le fact *adj.* not possible to deny; true or certain
30. antagonism of do_____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
31. colonial ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
32. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 25. rev, 26. baroque, 27. paw, 28. precarious, 29. undeniable, 30. dopamine, 31. overlord, 32. app

33. live a wh_____me lifestyle *adj.* good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
34. mo_____ze my skill *v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
35. catchy ea_____m *n.* a tune or melody that gets stuck in someone's head and repeats persistently and repeatedly; a type of insect that is known to burrow into the ears of corn plants
36. m__h his words *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
37. a mea_____ss endeavor *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
38. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
39. m__g bean salad *v.* to make a mess of, ruin, or destroy; to jumble or muddle something up; (noun, also "mung beans") small green legumes commonly used in Asian and Indian cuisines
40. repeat en_____ly *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
41. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

ANSWERS: 33. wholesome, 34. monetize, 35. earworm, 36. mash, 37. meaningless, 38. creditor, 39. mung, 40. endlessly, 41. superhero

42. gr__n in pain *v.* to make a low, moaning sound, often indicating pain, discomfort, or dissatisfaction
43. una_____ble behavior *adj.* not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior
44. harmless pr__k *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
45. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
46. an und_____le masterpiece *adj.* not possible to deny; true or certain
47. un___k a concept *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
48. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
49. und_____nt the population *v.* to count something or someone as less than the actual or expected number, often due to inaccurate or incomplete data collection or measurement methods
50. wild ro__t *n.* a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop

ANSWERS: 42. groan, 43. unaccountable, 44. prank, 45. creditor, 46. undeniable, 47. unpack, 48. improvisation, 49. undercount, 50. roost

51. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
52. br___e horses *n.* a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions
53. cast gl_____us eyes *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
54. in_____ue him *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
55. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
56. copyright tr__l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
57. ce___r a TV program *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

ANSWERS: 51. nod, 52. bridle, 53. glamorous, 54. intrigue, 55. superhero, 56. troll, 57. censor

58. in_____ue against his rival *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
59. worry en_____ly about our future *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
60. m__g the entire database *v.* to make a mess of, ruin, or destroy; to jumble or muddle something up; (noun, also "mung beans") small green legumes commonly used in Asian and Indian cuisines
61. the speaker's dr__e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
62. comedy ent_____er *n.* a performer who provides amusement or enjoyment to an audience, often through acting, music, dancing, or comedy
63. ro_____c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
64. wh_____me ingredients *adj.* good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
65. pre_____us job *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

ANSWERS: 58. intrigue, 59. endlessly, 60. mung, 61. drone, 62. entertainer, 63. robotic, 64. wholesome, 65. precarious

66. bird ro__t *n.* a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop
67. gr__n for water *v.* to make a low, moaning sound, often indicating pain, discomfort, or dissatisfaction
68. evil ov____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
69. op____y level *n.* the quality or state of being opaque (= not allowing light to pass through); a lack of transparency or clarity in a person's behavior, motives, or communication
70. ent_____er of the year *n.* a performer who provides amusement or enjoyment to an audience, often through acting, music, dancing, or comedy
71. p_w pad *n.* the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one
72. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
73. und_____nt the number of deaths *v.* to count something or someone as less than the actual or expected number, often due to inaccurate or incomplete data collection or measurement methods

ANSWERS: 66. roost, 67. groan, 68. overlord, 69. opacity, 70. entertainer, 71. paw, 72. rev, 73. undercount

74. un_____id position *adj.* paid less than a fair or reasonable wage
75. una_____ble decision *adj.* not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior
76. do_____ne-inhibiting agent *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
77. s__r the memory into your mind *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
78. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
79. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
80. ea_____m melody *n.* a tune or melody that gets stuck in someone's head and repeats persistently and repeatedly; a type of insect that is known to burrow into the ears of corn plants

ANSWERS: 74. underpaid, 75. unaccountable, 76. dopamine, 77. sear, 78. improvisation, 79. app, 80. earworm

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The cat batted at the toy with its ____.
n. the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one

2. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

3. The ornate architecture of the palace is a perfect example of the _____ style.
adj. of or relating to an ornate and elaborate style of art, architecture, and music that flourished in Europe in the late 16th and early 17th centuries; characterized by a sense of grandeur and drama

4. I need to _____ my suitcase and put my clothes away.
v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

5. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

6. The drug controls the level of _____ in the brain.
n. a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension

7. The newspaper editor decided to _____ the controversial headline to avoid backlash.
n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

ANSWERS: 1. paw, 2. pretensions, 3. baroque, 4. unpack, 5. rev, 6. dopamine, 7.

cancel

8. The south coast is less _____ yet has many clean and appealing hotels.
adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
9. Superman is a classic _____ known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.
n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
10. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
11. His honesty wielded a _____ influence on those around him.
adj. good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
12. The government's population survey consistently _____ the number of homeless people in the city.
v. to count something or someone as less than the actual or expected number, often due to inaccurate or incomplete data collection or measurement methods
13. Her influence on teenagers is _____.
adj. not possible to deny; true or certain
14. The artist's innovative style of work _____ me.
v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
15. We have become TV _____ due to video streaming services.
n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

ANSWERS: 8. glamorous, 9. superhero, 10. app's, 11. wholesome, 12. undercounts, 13. undeniable, 14. intrigues, 15. addicts

16. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

17. The group of teenagers played an innocent _____ on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.

n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others

18. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

19. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

20. She _____ the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

21. Be careful not to _____ the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.

v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

22. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.

v. to make something full of interest and energy

23. 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

ANSWERS: 16. robotic, 17. prank, 18. creditor, 19. drone, 20. mashed, 21. sear, 22. animated, 23. improvisation

24. The sight of the huge pile of laundry made me _____ with dread.
v. to make a low, moaning sound, often indicating pain, discomfort, or dissatisfaction
25. Many people believe that they are _____ for the work that they do.
adj. paid less than a fair or reasonable wage
26. The _____ of the company's financial statements raised suspicions of fraud.
n. the quality or state of being opaque (= not allowing light to pass through); a lack of transparency or clarity in a person's behavior, motives, or communication
27. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
v. to frighten someone very much
28. The chickens return to their _____ at sunset every night.
n. a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop
29. She had a _____ hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.
adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
30. Be careful not to _____ the data when performing the system update.
v. to make a mess of, ruin, or destroy; to jumble or muddle something up; (noun, also "mung beans") small green legumes commonly used in Asian and Indian cuisines
31. He was banned from the online forum for being a _____ and causing trouble.
n. a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 24. groan, 25. underpaid, 26. opacity, 27. terrify, 28. roost, 29. precarious, 30. mung, 31. troll

32. In the feudal system, the _____ owned most of the wealth.

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

33. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

34. The horse would not cooperate and constantly fought against the _____.

n. a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions

35. He explored ways to _____ his digital content.

v. to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money

36. I can't stop humming this _____ of a song that's been stuck in my head all day.

n. a tune or melody that gets stuck in someone's head and repeats persistently and repeatedly; a type of insect that is known to burrow into the ears of corn plants

37. The _____ disappearance of funds led to an investigation.

adj. not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior

38. The procession of demonstrators was _____ continuing.

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

ANSWERS: 32. overlord, 33. meaningless, 34. bridle, 35. monetize, 36. earworm, 37. unaccountable, 38. endlessly

39. The dancer is a talented _____ who captivates her audience with graceful movements.

n. a performer who provides amusement or enjoyment to an audience, often through acting, music, dancing, or comedy

40. She _____ quietly in response to the question.

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

ANSWERS: 39. entertainer, 40. nodded