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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Graham Allison: Is war between China and the US inevitable? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

discombobulate

v. to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate

synonym : upset, confuse, muddle

(1) **discombobulate** the competition, (2) **discombobulate** the balance

The sudden power surge threatened to **discombobulate** the entire computer system.

peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

synonym : beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

rivalry

n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

synonym: competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

synonym: evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power

The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

encompass

v. to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely

synonym: surround, encircle, include

(1) **encompass** a broad range, (2) **encompass** the enemy

The optimal solution that would **encompass** all these elements has yet to be proposed.

brute

n. a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power

synonym: beast, savage, animal

(1) **brute** beasts, (2) **brute** force

The **brute** behavior of the football players caused the game to be canceled.

soar

v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

synonym: fly, rise, ascend

(1) **soar** in popularity, (2) **soar** to new heights

The bird **soared** through the sky, and its wings spread wide.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales

The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

unstoppable

adj. impossible to stop or prevent

synonym : unshakable, unyielding, relentless

(1) **unstoppable** force, (2) **unstoppable** momentum

The team's winning streak was **unstoppable**.

immovable

adj. firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible

synonym : inflexible, fixed, rigid

(1) **immovable** property, (2) **immovable** facts

The corporation's CEO was an **immovable** force, determined to keep the company profitable at all costs.

consequent

adj. resulting or following as a result of something else;
(noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else

synonym : resulting, following, logical

(1) **consequent** increase, (2) the fallacy of affirming the **consequent**

The increase in demand for the product led to a **consequent** rise in its price.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

synonym : articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym : peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

instill

v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
synonym : implant, ingrain, inculcate

(1) **instill** confidence, (2) **instill** medication into my eye
The teacher attempted to **instill** the importance of hard work in her students.

spartan

adj. of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity

synonym : ascetic, austere, hard

(1) **spartan** training, (2) a **spartan** diet
The soldier lived a **spartan** lifestyle, with few possessions and luxuries.

arrogance

n. excessive self-confidence or self-importance

synonym : hubris, haughtiness, conceit

(1) brazen **arrogance**, (2) **arrogance** of power
He acted with **arrogance** and was not well-liked by his colleagues.

paranoia

n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability

synonym : suspicion, mistrust, delusions

(1) encourage **paranoia**, (2) suffering from **paranoia**
His **paranoia** about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.

catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

synonym : fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change
The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

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.

meteoric

adj. relating to or resembling a meteor; characterized by sudden and impressive success or accomplishment, often short-lived and fast-moving

synonym : swift, rapid, sudden

(1) **meteoric** explosion, (2) **meteoric** success

The athlete's **meteoric** rise to fame was the talk of the sports world.

astonished

adj. extremely surprised and upset

synonym : amazed, dumbfounded, flabbergasted

(1) **astonished** at the success, (2) cast **astonished** eyes

She was **astonished** by the news and could hardly believe it.

renovate

v. to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair

synonym : renew, restore, revamp

(1) **renovate** a house, (2) **renovate** an office

We need to **renovate** the kitchen before moving into the new house.

trump

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

audacious

adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness

synonym : bold, daring, fearless

(1) **audacious** stunt, (2) **audacious** decision

The young entrepreneur had an **audacious** plan to start his own company.

prerogative

n. a special right or privilege that is exclusive to a particular group or person; a discretionary power or authority that is granted by law or custom

synonym : entitlement, privilege, right

(1) **prerogative** of the king, (2) legislative **prerogative**

It is the president's **prerogative** to veto a bill that he doesn't agree with.

senator

n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

synonym : legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

Senate

n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

synonym : upper house, council, assembly

(1) **Senate** hearing, (2) **Senate** Finance Committee

The **Senate** majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

seesaw

n. a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground

synonym : teeter-totter, balance board

(1) **seesaw** motion, (2) **seesaw** effect

The children played on the **seesaw** in the park.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym : course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

tectonic

adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it

synonym : seismic, geologic, geological

(1) **tectonic** valleys, (2) a **tectonic** earthquake

The **tectonic** plates shifted, causing an earthquake.

protagonist

n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

synonym : hero, central figure, leading character

(1) **protagonist** of drama, (2) play a **protagonist**

The **protagonist's** triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.

provocation

n. action or speech that intentionally causes someone to become angry, irritated, or frustrated; a reason or motive for something, often negative or undesired

synonym : agitation, incitement, stimulus

(1) **provocation** tactics, (2) verbal **provocation**

The politician's speech was seen as a **provocation** to the opposition party.

assassination

n. the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives

synonym : murder, killing, execution

(1) failed **assassination** attempt, (2) **assassination** plot

The **assassination** of the president sent shockwaves through the nation.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym : ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

ultimatum

n. a final demand or proposal presented by one party to another, usually with a threat of serious consequences if the terms are not met

synonym: demand, requirement, condition

(1) **ultimatum** deadline, (2) an **ultimatum** for their rebellious teenager

The company issued an **ultimatum** to its employees, demanding a pay cut or face layoffs.

provocateur

n. a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy

synonym: inciter, agitator, instigator

(1) political **provocateur**, (2) social media **provocateur**

The movie director is considered a **provocateur** for his controversial films that often address taboo subjects.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

summon

v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

synonym: call for, muster, assemble

(1) **summon** a lawyer, (2) **summon** a city council

The chairperson was responsible for **summoning** committees.

statecraft

n. the skill or practice of conducting government affairs; the art of diplomacy or political management

synonym : diplomacy, governance, politics

(1) **statecraft** diplomacy, (2) shrewd **statecraft**

Leadership in international relations requires skill in the art of **statecraft**.

marshal

n. a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

synonym : marshal, commander, organizer

(1) **marshal** the books into their proper places, (2) deputy **marshal**

The event organizer appointed a professional **marshal** to manage the flow of traffic.

demobilize

v. to discharge or release soldiers, military personnel, or other personnel from active service or duty; to disband or break up a military unit or force; to withdraw or deactivate a military force or resource

synonym : disband, deactivate, release

(1) **demobilize** combatants, (2) **demobilize** soldiers

The board decided to **demobilize** some of the departments to streamline operations.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

synonym : demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

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.

condemn

v. to express strong disapproval or criticism of something

synonym: criticize, denounce, censure

(1) **condemn** violence, (2) **condemn** crime

The government was **condemned** for its handling of the crisis.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|---|
| 1. di____ce the explosive power | v. | to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation |
| 2. se____w motion | n. | a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground |
| 3. su____n a city council | v. | to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally |
| 4. the members of a military tr__p | n. | a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit. |
| 5. play a pro____st | n. | the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories |
| 6. in____l medication into my eye | v. | to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually |
| 7. social media pro____ur | n. | a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy |
| 8. de____te the economy | v. | to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage |
| 9. s__r to new heights | v. | to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease |

ANSWERS: 1. displace, 2. seesaw, 3. summon, 4. troop, 5. protagonist, 6. instill, 7. provocateur, 8. devastate, 9. soar

10. me____ic success *adj.* relating to or resembling a meteor; characterized by sudden and impressive success or accomplishment, often short-lived and fast-moving
11. em____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
12. de____te an area *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
13. victim of cat____hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
14. di____ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
15. cat____hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
16. former em____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
17. fierce ri____y *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
18. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
19. co____n crime *v.* to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
20. rec____ct an image *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
21. ar____ce of power *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance

ANSWERS: 10. meteoric, 11. emperor, 12. devastate, 13. catastrophic, 14. displace, 15. catastrophic, 16. emperor, 17. rivalry, 18. tweet, 19. condemn, 20. reconstruct, 21. arrogance

22. encourage pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
23. tr__p card *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
24. co_____n violence *v.* to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
25. uns_____le force *adj.* impossible to stop or prevent
26. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
27. suffering from pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
28. ri_____y among airlines *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
29. verbal pro_____on *n.* action or speech that intentionally causes someone to become angry, irritated, or frustrated; a reason or motive for something, often negative or undesired
30. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

ANSWERS: 22. paranoia, 23. trump, 24. condemn, 25. unstoppable, 26. troop, 27. paranoia, 28. rivalry, 29. provocation, 30. reconstruct

31. im_____le property *adj.* firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
32. choose tr__p *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
33. en_____ss a broad range *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
34. shrewd sta_____ft *n.* the skill or practice of conducting government affairs; the art of diplomacy or political management
35. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
36. deputy ma_____l *n.* a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner
37. in_____l confidence *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
38. ass_____ion plot *n.* the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives
39. br__e force *n.* a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power

ANSWERS: 31. immovable, 32. trump, 33. encompass, 34. statecraft, 35. surpass, 36. marshal, 37. instill, 38. assassination, 39. brute

40. junior se____r *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
41. au_____us decision *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
42. Se___e hearing *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
43. a sp_____n diet *adj.* of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity
44. re_____te a house *v.* to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair
45. political pro_____ur *n.* a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy
46. se___w effect *n.* a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground
47. en_____ss the enemy *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
48. su_____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

ANSWERS: 40. senator, 41. audacious, 42. Senate, 43. spartan, 44. renovate, 45. provocateur, 46. seesaw, 47. encompass, 48. surpass

49. au_____us stunt *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
50. p__k on the cheek *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
51. ul_____um deadline *n.* a final demand or proposal presented by one party to another, usually with a threat of serious consequences if the terms are not met
52. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
53. ast_____ed at the success *adj.* extremely surprised and upset
54. me_____ic explosion *adj.* relating to or resembling a meteor; characterized by sudden and impressive success or accomplishment, often short-lived and fast-moving
55. 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
56. p__k at feed *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
57. su___n a lawyer *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

ANSWERS: 49. audacious, 50. peck, 51. ultimatum, 52. tweet, 53. astonished, 54. meteoric, 55. unpack, 56. peck, 57. summon

58. br__e beasts *n.* a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power
59. cast ast_____ed eyes *adj.* extremely surprised and upset
60. pro_____on tactics *n.* action or speech that intentionally causes someone to become angry, irritated, or frustrated; a reason or motive for something, often negative or undesired
61. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
62. failed ass_____ion attempt *n.* the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives
63. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
64. brazen ar_____ce *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
65. sp_____n training *adj.* of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity
66. ma_____l the books into their proper places *n.* a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

ANSWERS: 58. brute, 59. astonished, 60. provocation, 61. trajectory, 62. assassination, 63. determinant, 64. arrogance, 65. spartan, 66. marshal

67. 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
68. pr_____ce a judgment *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
69. se_____r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
70. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
71. s__r in popularity *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
72. pr_____ce a name *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
73. dis_____ate the balance *v.* to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate
74. pre_____ve of the king *n.* a special right or privilege that is exclusive to a particular group or person; a discretionary power or authority that is granted by law or custom
75. sta_____ft diplomacy *n.* the skill or practice of conducting government affairs; the art of diplomacy or political management
76. dem_____ze soldiers *v.* to discharge or release soldiers, military personnel, or other personnel from active service or duty; to disband or break up a military unit or force; to withdraw or deactivate a military force or resource

ANSWERS: 67. unpack, 68. pronounce, 69. senator, 70. opportune, 71. soar, 72. pronounce, 73. discombobulate, 74. prerogative, 75. statecraft, 76. demobilize

77. uns_____le momentum *adj.* impossible to stop or prevent
78. Se___e Finance Committee *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
79. an ul_____um for their rebellious teenager *n.* a final demand or proposal presented by one party to another, usually with a threat of serious consequences if the terms are not met
80. con_____nt increase *adj.* resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
81. a te_____ic earthquake *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
82. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
83. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
84. im_____le facts *adj.* firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
85. te_____ic valleys *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
86. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space

ANSWERS: 77. unstoppable, 78. Senate, 79. ultimatum, 80. consequent, 81. tectonic, 82. determinant, 83. opportune, 84. immovable, 85. tectonic, 86. trajectory

87. re_____te an office *v.* to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair
88. the fallacy of affirming the
con_____nt *adj.* resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
89. legislative pre_____ve *n.* a special right or privilege that is exclusive to a particular group or person; a discretionary power or authority that is granted by law or custom
90. dem_____ze combatants *v.* to discharge or release soldiers, military personnel, or other personnel from active service or duty; to disband or break up a military unit or force; to withdraw or deactivate a military force or resource
91. dis_____ate the competition *v.* to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate
92. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

ANSWERS: 87. renovate, 88. consequent, 89. prerogative, 90. demobilize, 91. discombobulate, 92. protagonist

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.
n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

2. The young entrepreneur had an _____ plan to start his own company.
adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness

3. The government was _____ for its handling of the crisis.
v. to express strong disapproval or criticism of something

4. The event organizer appointed a professional _____ to manage the flow of traffic.
n. a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

5. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
n. the male ruler of an empire

6. His _____ about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.
n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability

7. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

ANSWERS: 1. tweet, 2. audacious, 3. condemned, 4. marshal, 5. Emperor, 6. paranoia, 7. protagonist's

8. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
9. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was _____.
adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
10. He acted with _____ and was not well-liked by his colleagues.
n. excessive self-confidence or self-importance
11. The wood _____ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
12. The _____ majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.
n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
13. 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
14. Leadership in international relations requires skill in the art of _____.
n. the skill or practice of conducting government affairs; the art of diplomacy or political management
15. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

ANSWERS: 8. troop, 9. catastrophic, 10. arrogance, 11. pecker, 12. Senate, 13. unpack, 14. statecraft, 15. surpassed

16. We need to _____ the kitchen before moving into the new house.
- v.* to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair
17. The soldier lived a _____ lifestyle, with few possessions and luxuries.
- adj.* of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity
18. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
19. The board decided to _____ some of the departments to streamline operations.
- v.* to discharge or release soldiers, military personnel, or other personnel from active service or duty; to disband or break up a military unit or force; to withdraw or deactivate a military force or resource
20. The chairperson was responsible for _____ committees.
- v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
21. The athlete's _____ rise to fame was the talk of the sports world.
- adj.* relating to or resembling a meteor; characterized by sudden and impressive success or accomplishment, often short-lived and fast-moving
22. She was _____ by the news and could hardly believe it.
- adj.* extremely surprised and upset

ANSWERS: 16. renovate, 17. spartan, 18. determinant, 19. demobilize, 20. summoning, 21. meteoric, 22. astonished

23. The _____ of the president sent shockwaves through the nation.
n. the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives
24. The sudden power surge threatened to _____ the entire computer system.
v. to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate
25. The movie director is considered a _____ for his controversial films that often address taboo subjects.
n. a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy
26. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
27. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
28. The increase in demand for the product led to a _____ rise in its price.
adj. resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
29. The teacher attempted to _____ the importance of hard work in her students.
v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
30. The company issued an _____ to its employees, demanding a pay cut or face layoffs.
n. a final demand or proposal presented by one party to another, usually with a threat of serious consequences if the terms are not met

ANSWERS: 23. assassination, 24. discombobulate, 25. provocateur, 26. trajectory, 27. devastate, 28. consequent, 29. instill, 30. ultimatum

31. It is the president's _____ to veto a bill that he doesn't agree with.
n. a special right or privilege that is exclusive to a particular group or person; a discretionary power or authority that is granted by law or custom
32. The optimal solution that would _____ all these elements has yet to be proposed.
v. to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
33. The construction of the new dam will _____ hundreds of families living downstream.
v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
34. The _____ behavior of the football players caused the game to be canceled.
n. a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power
35. The _____ plates shifted, causing an earthquake.
adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
36. The corporation's CEO was an _____ force, determined to keep the company profitable at all costs.
adj. firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
37. The _____ between the two teams was intense and heated.
n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

ANSWERS: 31. prerogative, 32. encompass, 33. displace, 34. brute, 35. tectonic, 36. immovable, 37. rivalry

38. The hawkish _____ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.
n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
39. The politician's speech was seen as a _____ to the opposition party.
n. action or speech that intentionally causes someone to become angry, irritated, or frustrated; a reason or motive for something, often negative or undesired
40. The bird _____ through the sky, and its wings spread wide.
v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
41. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
42. The _____ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.
n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
43. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.
v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
44. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.
v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
45. The team's winning streak was _____.
adj. impossible to stop or prevent
46. The children played on the _____ in the park.
n. a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground

ANSWERS: 38. senator, 39. provocation, 40. soared, 41. opportune, 42. trump, 43. reconstruct, 44. pronounce, 45. unstoppable, 46. seesaw

ANSWERS: