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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ian Firth: Bridges should be beautiful | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- 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**.
- ingenuity** *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
synonym : creativity, invention, originality
(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**
Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.
- stagnate** *v.* to remain still, inactive, or without growth or development; to become stale or foul-smelling due to a lack of circulation or movement
synonym : stall, halt, idle
(1) **stagnate** economy, (2) **stagnate** due to problems
If you don't exercise regularly, your fitness levels may **stagnate**.

aqueduct

n. a structure constructed to carry water over a long distance, typically consisting of a series of arches or elevated channels supported by pillars or towers

synonym : conduit, canal, channel

(1) **aqueduct** system, (2) mountain **aqueduct**

The ancient Romans built an **aqueduct** to transport water to the city.

mortar

n. a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

synonym : howitzer, cement mixer, masonry tool

(1) **mortar** joints, (2) apply **mortar**

The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh **mortar**.

dizzy

adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

synonym : addled, confounded, unsteady

(1) feel **dizzy**, (2) had a **dizzy** spell

Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting **dizzy**.

canyon

n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

synonym : gorge, valley, ravine

(1) twisty **canyon** road, (2) **canyon** of skyscrapers

The Grand **Canyon** has an awe-inspiring sight.

vine

n. a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems

(1) a green **vine**, (2) **vine** of ore

A **vine** remains productive throughout the year.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym : braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

synonymous

adj. having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase

synonym : equivalent, interchangeable, similar

(1) **synonymous** terms, (2) non- **synonymous** mutation

The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are **synonymous**.

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.

synergy

n. the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements

synonym : cooperation, collaboration, partnership

(1) **synergy** collaboration, (2) **synergy** between businesses

The new software program was designed to increase productivity by promoting employee **synergy**.

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.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym : assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

glacial

adj. relating to or resembling a glacier (= a slowly moving mass of ice) or the process of glaciation; characterized by an extremely slow or gradual pace or movement

synonym : cold, icy, frozen

(1) **glacial** movements, (2) **glacial** terrain

The **glacial** pace of the negotiations frustrated both parties.

probabilistic

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

synonym : probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

incidentally

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

synonym : by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

Incidentally, I know the answer to that question.

alarming

adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

synonym : forbidding, concerning, disturbing

(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics

The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym : bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

gallop

v. (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly

synonym: canter, race, bound

(1) **gallop** a horse, (2) **gallop** off at top speed

The horse **galloped** across the field at a fast pace.

wobble

v. to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down

synonym: sway, rock, totter

(1) **wobble** a few steps, (2) **wobble** chair

The table **wobbled** a little when I put my drink on it.

chap

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

synonym: fellow, guy, crack

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

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

overreact

v. to react more strongly or excessively than is necessary or appropriate

synonym: overplay, exaggerate, overstate

(1) **overreact** with anger, (2) **overreact** to the criticism

She **overreacted** to the situation and caused unnecessary stress.

aerodynamics

n. the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars

synonym: aeromechanics, aeronautics, airflow

(1) **aerodynamics** research, (2) **aerodynamics** design

The **aerodynamics** of the car allowed it to glide smoothly through the air.

streamline

v. to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps

synonym: simplify, optimize, make more efficient

(1) **streamline** administrative activities, (2) **streamline** workflow

The government plans to **streamline** the tax collection process to make it more efficient.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

torsion

n. a twisting force that can deform or damage a structure or material, typically produced by a rotational motion

synonym: twisting, torsion, torque

(1) **torsion** stress, (2) **torsion** angle

The **torsion** on the suspension bridge caused it to sway in the wind.

estuary

n. a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix

synonym: delta, mouth, inlet

(1) **estuary** port, (2) **estuary** delta

The mouth of the river formed an **estuary** where saltwater and freshwater met.

prohibitively

adv. in a manner that discourages or prevents something from happening or being done, especially by making it too expensive

synonym: excessively

(1) **prohibitively** long time, (2) **prohibitively** difficult

The cost of the project was **prohibitively** high for the company to consider.

pontoon

n. a flat-bottomed boat or floating structure used as a platform or support; a device attached to the bottom of an aircraft to provide stability during takeoff and landing

synonym : float, barge, raft

(1) **pontoon** boat, (2) floating **pontoon**

The **pontoon** bridge was built to allow traffic to cross the river during the construction of the new bridge.

tether

v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

synonym : tie, fasten, secure

(1) **tether** a horse, (2) **tether** strap

The hiker **tethered** their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.

seabed

n. the bottom of a sea or ocean; the surface of the sea's bed, which can be rocky, sandy, muddy, or covered with coral or other organisms

synonym : ocean floor, sea bottom

(1) **seabed** mining, (2) **seabed** habitat

The dense coral reefs on the **seabed** provide a home for various marine life.

buoyancy

n. the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid

synonym : flotation, levitation, airiness

(1) **buoyancy** principle, (2) **buoyancy** compensator

The object's **buoyancy** helped it float on the water's surface.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

sculptural

adj. relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a

three-dimensional quality or appearance

synonym : sculpted, carved, modeled

(1) **sculptural** masterpiece, (2) **sculptural** design

The **sculptural** details on the building's facade were simply stunning.

allude

v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly

synonym : imply, indicate, hint

(1) **allude** to his low origin, (2) **allude** to the planning

He **alluded** to the problem but did not mention it directly.

serviceable

adj. fit for use or suitable for a particular purpose

synonym : usable, functional, practical

(1) **serviceable** job, (2) old but **serviceable**

The **serviceable** clothes were worn but still in good condition.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym : enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym : rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

well-being

n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

synonym : health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**

We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

mediocrity

n. the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal

synonym : averageness, ordinariness, unoriginality

(1) sink into **mediocrity**, (2) escape **mediocrity**

He was content with living a life of **mediocrity**.

mediocre

adj. of only average quality; not very good

synonym : average, ordinary, unimpressive

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

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

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym : dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

vandalism

n. the willful and malicious destruction or defacement of property that belongs to another person or the public; the act of deliberately causing damage or harm to something valuable or meaningful

synonym : destruction, damage, desecration

(1) cyber **vandalism**, (2) **vandalism** at shrines

The graffiti on the wall was an act of **vandalism** that caused damage to public property.

procure

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

synonym : obtain, acquire, secure

(1) **procure** a rare antique, (2) **procure** services

I need to **procure** some supplies for the upcoming project.

Session 2: Spelling

1. twisty ca___n road
n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
2. al___e to his low origin
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
3. pro_____ely long time
adv. in a manner that discourages or prevents something from happening or being done, especially by making it too expensive
4. pro_____ely difficult
adv. in a manner that discourages or prevents something from happening or being done, especially by making it too expensive
5. str_____ne workflow
v. to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps
6. rec_____ct an image
v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
7. apply mo___r
n. a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances
8. po__t the premise
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
9. mo___r joints
n. a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

ANSWERS: 1. canyon, 2. allude, 3. prohibitively, 4. prohibitively, 5. streamline, 6. reconstruct, 7. mortar, 8. posit, 9. mortar

10. in_____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
11. ov_____ct to the criticism *v.* to react more strongly or excessively than is necessary or appropriate
12. non-syn_____us mutation *adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
13. ov_____ct with anger *v.* to react more strongly or excessively than is necessary or appropriate
14. sink into med_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal
15. sy_____y collaboration *n.* the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
16. floating po_____n *n.* a flat-bottomed boat or floating structure used as a platform or support; a device attached to the bottom of an aircraft to provide stability during takeoff and landing
17. se_____d mining *n.* the bottom of a sea or ocean; the surface of the sea's bed, which can be rocky, sandy, muddy, or covered with coral or other organisms
18. scu_____al design *adj.* relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a three-dimensional quality or appearance

ANSWERS: 10. innovate, 11. overreact, 12. synonymous, 13. overreact, 14. mediocrity, 15. synergy, 16. pontoon, 17. seabed, 18. sculptural

19. se___d habitat *n.* the bottom of a sea or ocean; the surface of the sea's bed, which can be rocky, sandy, muddy, or covered with coral or other organisms
20. sy_____y between businesses *n.* the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
21. ca___n of skyscrapers *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
22. c__p stick *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
23. a me_____re talent *adj.* of only average quality; not very good
24. ser_____le job *adj.* fit for use or suitable for a particular purpose
25. en___h public services *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
26. aq_____ct system *n.* a structure constructed to carry water over a long distance, typically consisting of a series of arches or elevated channels supported by pillars or towers
27. feel di__y *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
28. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 19. seabed, 20. synergy, 21. canyon, 22. chap, 23. mediocre, 24. serviceable, 25. enrich, 26. aqueduct, 27. dizzy, 28. numb

29. en___h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
30. al_____ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
31. we___e on a loom *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
32. aer_____ics research *n.* the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars
33. scu_____al masterpiece *adj.* relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a three-dimensional quality or appearance
34. the infinite in_____ty of man *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
35. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
36. pr_____e a rare antique *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
37. escape med_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal
38. wo___e a few steps *v.* to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down

ANSWERS: 29. enrich, 30. alarming, 31. weave, 32. aerodynamics, 33. sculptural, 34. ingenuity, 35. numb, 36. procure, 37. mediocrity, 38. wobble

39. es____y port *n.* a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix
40. gl____l terrain *adj.* relating to or resembling a glacier (= a slowly moving mass of ice) or the process of glaciation; characterized by an extremely slow or gradual pace or movement
41. pro____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
42. es____y delta *n.* a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix
43. po____n boat *n.* a flat-bottomed boat or floating structure used as a platform or support; a device attached to the bottom of an aircraft to provide stability during takeoff and landing
44. str____ne administrative activities *v.* to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps
45. 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
46. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

ANSWERS: 39. estuary, 40. glacial, 41. probabilistic, 42. estuary, 43. pontoon, 44. streamline, 45. rev, 46. doe

47. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
48. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
49. 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
50. the wel_____ng of a nation *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
51. st_____te due to problems *v.* to remain still, inactive, or without growth or development; to become stale or foul-smelling due to a lack of circulation or movement
52. to_____n stress *n.* a twisting force that can deform or damage a structure or material, typically produced by a rotational motion
53. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
54. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
55. bu_____cy principle *n.* the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid

ANSWERS: 47. opportune, 48. opportune, 49. rev, 50. well-being, 51. stagnate, 52. torsion, 53. weave, 54. sect, 55. buoyancy

56. aer_____ics design *n.* the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars
57. gl_____l movements *adj.* relating to or resembling a glacier (= a slowly moving mass of ice) or the process of glaciation; characterized by an extremely slow or gradual pace or movement
58. syn_____us terms *adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
59. al_____ng news *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
60. cyber va_____sm *n.* the willful and malicious destruction or defacement of property that belongs to another person or the public; the act of deliberately causing damage or harm to something valuable or meaningful
61. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
62. ga___p a horse *v.* (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly
63. te___r strap *v.* to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

ANSWERS: 56. aerodynamics, 57. glacial, 58. synonymous, 59. alarming, 60. vandalism, 61. sect, 62. gallop, 63. tether

64. inc_____lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
65. te___r a horse *v.* to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog
66. nice c__p *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
67. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
68. wo___e chair *v.* to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down
69. bu____cy compensator *n.* the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
70. mountain aq____ct *n.* a structure constructed to carry water over a long distance, typically consisting of a series of arches or elevated channels supported by pillars or towers
71. pr____e services *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
72. a sense of wel_____ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
73. inc_____lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing

ANSWERS: 64. incidentally, 65. tether, 66. chap, 67. doe, 68. wobble, 69. buoyancy, 70. aqueduct, 71. procure, 72. well-being, 73. incidentally

74. v__e of ore *n.* a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems
75. va_____sm at shrines *n.* the willful and malicious destruction or defacement of property that belongs to another person or the public; the act of deliberately causing damage or harm to something valuable or meaningful
76. a green v__e *n.* a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems
77. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
78. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
79. in_____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
80. to_____n angle *n.* a twisting force that can deform or damage a structure or material, typically produced by a rotational motion
81. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
82. abound in in_____ty *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
83. old but ser_____le *adj.* fit for use or suitable for a particular purpose
84. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 74. vine, 75. vandalism, 76. vine, 77. reconstruct, 78. excite, 79. innovate, 80. torsion, 81. probabilistic, 82. ingenuity, 83. serviceable, 84. excite

85. had a di__y spell *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
86. ga___p off at top speed *v.* (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly
87. al___e to the planning *v.* to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
88. st____te economy *v.* to remain still, inactive, or without growth or development; to become stale or foul-smelling due to a lack of circulation or movement
89. me____re performance *adj.* of only average quality; not very good
90. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

ANSWERS: 85. dizzy, 86. gallop, 87. allude, 88. stagnate, 89. mediocre, 90. posit

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. If you don't exercise regularly, your fitness levels may _____.
v. to remain still, inactive, or without growth or development; to become stale or foul-smelling due to a lack of circulation or movement
2. The hiker _____ their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.
v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog
3. Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting _____.
adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
4. _____ I know the answer to that question.
adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing
5. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.
v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
6. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.
v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
7. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite _____.
adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
8. I need to _____ some supplies for the upcoming project.
v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

ANSWERS: 1. stagnate, 2. tethered, 3. dizzy, 4. Incidentally, 5. reconstruct, 6. weaves, 7. alarming, 8. procure

9. He suffered a painful _____ on his hand after working with chemicals.
n. a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
10. The _____ pace of the negotiations frustrated both parties.
adj. relating to or resembling a glacier (= a slowly moving mass of ice) or the process of glaciation; characterized by an extremely slow or gradual pace or movement
11. The object's _____ helped it float on the water's surface.
n. the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
12. The cost of the project was _____ high for the company to consider.
adv. in a manner that discourages or prevents something from happening or being done, especially by making it too expensive
13. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
14. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
15. He was considered a _____ artist compared to others in his field.
adj. of only average quality; not very good
16. The mouth of the river formed an _____ where saltwater and freshwater met.
n. a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix

ANSWERS: 9. chap, 10. glacial, 11. buoyancy, 12. prohibitively, 13. posit, 14. numb, 15. mediocre, 16. estuary

17. The government plans to _____ the tax collection process to make it more efficient.
- v.* to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps
18. The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh _____.
- n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances
19. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. The new software program was designed to increase productivity by promoting employee _____.
- n.* the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
21. The _____ clothes were worn but still in good condition.
- adj.* fit for use or suitable for a particular purpose
22. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
23. 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
24. The table _____ a little when I put my drink on it.
- v.* to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down

ANSWERS: 17. streamline, 18. mortar, 19. opportune, 20. synergy, 21. serviceable, 22. excited, 23. rev, 24. wobbled

25. The _____ details on the building's facade were simply stunning.
adj. relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a three-dimensional quality or appearance
26. She _____ to the situation and caused unnecessary stress.
v. to react more strongly or excessively than is necessary or appropriate
27. He was content with living a life of _____.
n. the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal
28. We are responsible for the care and _____ of all our employees.
n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
29. He _____ to the problem but did not mention it directly.
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
30. The ancient Romans built an _____ to transport water to the city.
n. a structure constructed to carry water over a long distance, typically consisting of a series of arches or elevated channels supported by pillars or towers
31. The graffiti on the wall was an act of _____ that caused damage to public property.
n. the willful and malicious destruction or defacement of property that belongs to another person or the public; the act of deliberately causing damage or harm to something valuable or meaningful
32. Creativity and _____ are often brought about by extreme concentration.
n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

ANSWERS: 25. sculptural, 26. overreacted, 27. mediocrity, 28. well-being, 29. alluded, 30. aqueduct, 31. vandalism, 32. ingenuity

33. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

34. The minority ____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

35. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

36. The horse _____ across the field at a fast pace.

v. (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly

37. A ____ remains productive throughout the year.

n. a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems

38. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

39. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

40. The Grand _____ has an awe-inspiring sight.

n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

ANSWERS: 33. probabilistic, 34. sect, 35. enriches, 36. galloped, 37. vine, 38. innovate, 39. doe, 40. Canyon

41. The _____ on the suspension bridge caused it to sway in the wind.
n. a twisting force that can deform or damage a structure or material, typically produced by a rotational motion
42. The _____ of the car allowed it to glide smoothly through the air.
n. the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars
43. The dense coral reefs on the _____ provide a home for various marine life.
n. the bottom of a sea or ocean; the surface of the sea's bed, which can be rocky, sandy, muddy, or covered with coral or other organisms
44. The _____ bridge was built to allow traffic to cross the river during the construction of the new bridge.
n. a flat-bottomed boat or floating structure used as a platform or support; a device attached to the bottom of an aircraft to provide stability during takeoff and landing
45. The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are _____.
adj. having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase

ANSWERS: 41. torsion, 42. aerodynamics, 43. seabed, 44. pontoon, 45. synonymous