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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dawn Wacek: A librarian's case against overdue book fines | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

powerless

adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

synonym: helpless, impotent, feeble

(1) **powerless** position, (2) **powerless** in the organization

During the hurricane, we felt **powerless** against the winds and rain.

disparity

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

synonym: difference, inequality, gap

(1) the **disparity** between theory and reality, (2) income **disparity**

There is a significant **disparity** in pay between men and women in the company.

lexicon

n. all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

synonym : glossary, dictionary, vocabulary

(1) Greek-English **lexicon**, (2) **lexicon** of business phrases
This bilingual **lexicon** was essential for his language improvement.

snippet

n. a small piece or brief extract of something

synonym : fragment, excerpt, brief

(1) **snippet** of wisdom, (2) code **snippet**

The journalist saved a **snippet** of the interview for later reference.

caterpillar

n. the wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth

synonym : larva, grub, worm

(1) **caterpillar** of a butterfly, (2) **caterpillar** in a cocoon

The woolly bear **caterpillar** munched on leaves all day.

sloth

n. laziness or lack of energy or motivation to do something;
a slow-moving, arboreal mammal found in Central and South America

synonym : laziness, indolence, idleness

(1) lazy **sloth**, (2) overcome **sloth**

The **sloth's** slow movements are a product of their physiology.

lackadaisical

adj. lacking enthusiasm or energy; lazy or sluggish; showing a lack of interest or concern

synonym : lazy, apathetic, sluggish

(1) **lackadaisical** service, (2) **lackadaisical** attitude

His **lackadaisical** approach to studying made him stay caught up in his classes.

dawdle

v. to waste time; to move or act slowly; to be hesitant or indecisive in one's actions

synonym : loiter, lag, procrastinate

(1) **dawdle** through dinner, (2) **dawdle** the day away

You should wait to **dawdle** and finish your homework before

bedtime.

dillydally

v. to waste time or procrastinate by engaging in idle or aimless activity, often with a lack of focus or purpose

synonym: procrastinate, dawdle, delay

(1) **dillydally** with the decision, (2) **dillydally** on their way home from school

The manager warned the employees not to **dillydally** during work hours.

languid

adj. displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest

synonym: lazy, lackadaisical, slow

(1) **languid** summer afternoon, (2) **languid** movements

The **languid** pace of the rural town was a refreshing change from the bustling city life.

stoic

adj. calm and unemotional, especially in difficult situations;
(noun) a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno

synonym: unflappable, resigned, unemotional

(1) **stoic** courage, (2) do **stoic** strength training

He was known for his **stoic** demeanor, never showing emotion or weakness.

impassive

adj. not showing emotion; calm and unemotional; without physical feeling or sensation

synonym: calm, stoic, indifferent

(1) **impassive** tone, (2) **impassive** behavior

His face remained **impassive** as I delivered the bad news.

sluggish

adj. lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress

synonym: lethargic, slow, inactive

(1) **sluggish** economy, (2) **sluggish** response

After a long day at work, I feel **sluggish** and lack energy.

lethargic

adj. feeling sluggish or drowsy; lacking energy or enthusiasm; apathetic; inactive

synonym : sluggish, drowsy, inactive

(1) **lethargic** performance, (2) **lethargic** response

The medication made him feel **lethargic** and drowsy.

placid

adj. calm, peaceful, undisturbed; not easily upset or agitated; showing little excitement, enthusiasm, or emotion

synonym : calm, serene, tranquil

(1) **placid** lake, (2) **placid** demeanor

The **placid** atmosphere of the park made it a great place to read or relax.

mellow

adj. (of a person) relaxed and comfortable; (of a color, sound, or light) soft and warm

synonym : calm, relaxed, easy-going

(1) a **mellow** apple, (2) **mellow** music

He was in a **mellow** mood after a long day of fishing.

slothful

adj. characterized by laziness or a lack of motivation; disinclined to exertion or effort; sluggish or indolent in physical or mental activity

synonym : lazy, indolent, lethargic

(1) **slothful** behavior, (2) **slothful** lifestyle

His **slothful** attitude towards exercise resulted in poor physical fitness.

tranquil

adj. peaceful, calm, and free from disturbance or agitation; without stress or anxiety; serene or restful

synonym : calm, peaceful, serene

(1) **tranquil** retreat, (2) **tranquil** setting

Looking out over the **tranquil** lake, I felt at peace.

yawn

v. to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of

oxygen

synonym : gape, stretch, open

(1) **yawn** in sleepiness, (2) lazy **yawn**

He couldn't help but **yawn** during the long and boring presentation.

correlate

v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym : associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

socioeconomic

adj. relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class

synonym : social, economic, financial

(1) **socioeconomic** status, (2) **socioeconomic** issues

The **socioeconomic** conditions of a country can significantly affect its political stability.

counteract

v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it

synonym : balance, offset, compensate

(1) **counteract** the effect of poison, (2) **counteract** global warming

Our body's immune system produces antibodies to **counteract** disease.

patron

n. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.

synonym : contributor, sponsor, supporter

(1) the **patron** saint of a place, (2) political **patron**

They have been a **patron** of this restaurant for many years.

unequivocal

adj. admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion

synonym : apparent, absolute, undeniable

(1) **unequivocal** evidence, (2) receive an **unequivocal** answer

It is **unequivocal** that human activities are the cause of global warming.

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.

accrue

v. (of a benefit or sum of money) to increase or accumulate in number or amount over a period of time

synonym : increase, accumulate, amass

(1) **accrue** to the general treasury, (2) benefits **accrue** to the community

Two-percent interest will **accrue** on your savings account.

disparate

adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

synonym : different, distinct, separate

(1) **disparate** impact, (2) physically **disparate** location

The organization worked to bring together **disparate** groups in the community.

tote

v. to carry or transport something, especially by hand or with some effort; to haul or convey something from one place to another

synonym : carry, haul, transport

(1) **tote** a cell-phone, (2) **tote** her books in a colorful backpack

Can you help me **tote** these groceries to the car?

equate

v. to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

synonym : associate, liken, relate

(1) **equate** mistakes with failure, (2) **equate** to legal responsibility

It isn't very reasonable to **equate** money with happiness.

amnesty

n. a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes

synonym : pardon, clemency, reprieve

(1) grant an **amnesty**, (2) **amnesty** for debt

The government declared **amnesty** for all political prisoners.

overdue

adj. past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed

synonym : late, delinquent, outstanding

(1) **overdue** bill, (2) **overdue** task

Her library books were **overdue**, so she had to pay a fine to check out more.

hoop

n. a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration

synonym : ring, circle, band

(1) **hoop** earring, (2) basketball **hoop**

The circus clown jumped through a fiery **hoop** as the audience gasped in amazement.

fluctuate

v. to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably

synonym : vary, oscillate, sway

(1) **fluctuate** prices, (2) **fluctuate** rapidly

Stock prices **fluctuate** daily based on market demand and supply.

recession

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

synonym : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

frontline

adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

synonym: battlefront, cutting edge

(1) **frontline** health workers, (2) at the **frontline** of the war

Within days, the new aircraft was in **frontline** service.

Session 2: Spelling

1. fl_____te rapidly
v. to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably
2. dil_____ly with the decision
v. to waste time or procrastinate by engaging in idle or aimless activity, often with a lack of focus or purpose
3. di_____te impact
adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
4. tr_____il setting
adj. peaceful, calm, and free from disturbance or agitation; without stress or anxiety; serene or restful
5. sl_____ul behavior
adj. characterized by laziness or a lack of motivation; disinclined to exertion or effort; sluggish or indolent in physical or mental activity
6. full of em_____y
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
7. at the fr_____ne of the war
adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy
8. da___e the day away
v. to waste time; to move or act slowly; to be hesitant or indecisive in one's actions
9. lac_____cal service
adj. lacking enthusiasm or energy; lazy or sluggish; showing a lack of interest or concern

ANSWERS: 1. fluctuate, 2. dillydally, 3. disparate, 4. tranquil, 5. slothful, 6. empathy, 7. frontline, 8. dawdle, 9. lackadaisical

10. sn_____t of wisdom *n.* a small piece or brief extract of something
11. cou_____ct global warming *v.* to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
12. income di_____ty *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
13. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
14. the pa____n saint of a place *n.* a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
15. cou_____ct the effect of poison *v.* to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
16. la_____d summer afternoon *adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
17. ac____e to the general treasury *v.* (of a benefit or sum of money) to increase or accumulate in number or amount over a period of time
18. pl____d lake *adj.* calm, peaceful, undisturbed; not easily upset or agitated; showing little excitement, enthusiasm, or emotion
19. lazy sl__h *n.* laziness or lack of energy or motivation to do something; a slow-moving, arboreal mammal found in Central and South America

ANSWERS: 10. snippet, 11. counteract, 12. disparity, 13. recession, 14. patron, 15. counteract, 16. languid, 17. accrue, 18. placid, 19. sloth

20. the di_____ty between theory and reality *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
21. le_____n of business phrases *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
22. grant an am_____y *n.* a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes
23. po_____ss position *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
24. receive an une_____al answer *adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
25. sl_____ul lifestyle *adj.* characterized by laziness or a lack of motivation; disinclined to exertion or effort; sluggish or indolent in physical or mental activity
26. sl_____sh economy *adj.* lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
27. ov_____e bill *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
28. im_____ve tone *adj.* not showing emotion; calm and unemotional; without physical feeling or sensation
29. dil_____ly on their way home from school *v.* to waste time or procrastinate by engaging in idle or aimless activity, often with a lack of focus or purpose
30. ov_____e task *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed

ANSWERS: 20. disparity, 21. lexicon, 22. amnesty, 23. powerless, 24. unequivocal, 25. slothful, 26. sluggish, 27. overdue, 28. impassive, 29. dillydally, 30. overdue

31. le_____ic performance *adj.* feeling sluggish or drowsy; lacking energy or enthusiasm; apathetic; inactive
32. le_____ic response *adj.* feeling sluggish or drowsy; lacking energy or enthusiasm; apathetic; inactive
33. sl_____sh response *adj.* lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
34. fl_____te prices *v.* to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably
35. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
36. tr_____il retreat *adj.* peaceful, calm, and free from disturbance or agitation; without stress or anxiety; serene or restful
37. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
38. physically di_____te location *adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
39. la_____d movements *adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
40. im_____ve behavior *adj.* not showing emotion; calm and unemotional; without physical feeling or sensation

ANSWERS: 31. lethargic, 32. lethargic, 33. sluggish, 34. fluctuate, 35. creditor, 36. tranquil, 37. recession, 38. disparate, 39. languid, 40. impassive

41. benefits ac___e to the community *v.* (of a benefit or sum of money) to increase or accumulate in number or amount over a period of time
42. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
43. overcome sl__h *n.* laziness or lack of energy or motivation to do something; a slow-moving, arboreal mammal found in Central and South America
44. lac_____cal attitude *adj.* lacking enthusiasm or energy; lazy or sluggish; showing a lack of interest or concern
45. t__e her books in a colorful backpack *v.* to carry or transport something, especially by hand or with some effort; to haul or convey something from one place to another
46. une_____al evidence *adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
47. y__n in sleepiness *v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
48. co_____te to the size *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
49. t__e a cell-phone *v.* to carry or transport something, especially by hand or with some effort; to haul or convey something from one place to another

ANSWERS: 41. accrue, 42. creditor, 43. sloth, 44. lackadaisical, 45. tote, 46. unequivocal, 47. yawn, 48. correlate, 49. tote

50. do st__c strength training *adj.* calm and unemotional, especially in difficult situations; (noun) a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno
51. pl___d demeanor *adj.* calm, peaceful, undisturbed; not easily upset or agitated; showing little excitement, enthusiasm, or emotion
52. basketball h__p *n.* a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration
53. code sn_____t *n.* a small piece or brief extract of something
54. cat_____ar of a butterfly *n.* the wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth
55. co_____te closely with the quality *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
56. soc_____mic issues *adj.* relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class
57. st__c courage *adj.* calm and unemotional, especially in difficult situations; (noun) a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno
58. po_____ss in the organization *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
59. fr_____ne health workers *adj.* in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

ANSWERS: 50. stoic, 51. placid, 52. hoop, 53. snippet, 54. caterpillar, 55. correlate, 56. socioeconomic, 57. stoic, 58. powerless, 59. frontline

60. cat_____ar in a cocoon *n.* the wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth
61. a me___w apple *adj.* (of a person) relaxed and comfortable; (of a color, sound, or light) soft and warm
62. lazy y___n *v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
63. da___e through dinner *v.* to waste time; to move or act slowly; to be hesitant or indecisive in one's actions
64. soc_____mic status *adj.* relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class
65. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
66. me___w music *adj.* (of a person) relaxed and comfortable; (of a color, sound, or light) soft and warm
67. eq___e to legal responsibility *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
68. Greek-English le_____n *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

ANSWERS: 60. caterpillar, 61. mellow, 62. yawn, 63. dawdle, 64. socioeconomic, 65. empathy, 66. mellow, 67. equate, 68. lexicon

69. political pa___n *n.* a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
70. h__p earring *n.* a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration
71. am____y for debt *n.* a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes
72. eq___e mistakes with failure *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

ANSWERS: 69. patron, 70. hoop, 71. amnesty, 72. equate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The circus clown jumped through a fiery _____ as the audience gasped in amazement.
n. a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration
2. The _____ pace of the rural town was a refreshing change from the bustling city life.
adj. displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
3. Within days, the new aircraft was in _____ service.
adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy
4. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.
n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
5. This bilingual _____ was essential for his language improvement.
n. all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
6. During the hurricane, we felt _____ against the winds and rain.
adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
7. They have been a _____ of this restaurant for many years.
n. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. hoop, 2. languid, 3. frontline, 4. disparity, 5. lexicon, 6. powerless, 7. patron

8. Two-percent interest will _____ on your savings account.
v. (of a benefit or sum of money) to increase or accumulate in number or amount over a period of time
9. You should wait to _____ and finish your homework before bedtime.
v. to waste time; to move or act slowly; to be hesitant or indecisive in one's actions
10. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
11. The government declared _____ for all political prisoners.
n. a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes
12. It is _____ that human activities are the cause of global warming.
adj. admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
13. The wooly bear _____ munched on leaves all day.
n. the wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth
14. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
15. He was known for his _____ demeanor, never showing emotion or weakness.
adj. calm and unemotional, especially in difficult situations; (noun) a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno

ANSWERS: 8. accrue, 9. dawdle, 10. correlate, 11. amnesty, 12. unequivocal, 13. caterpillar, 14. Empathy, 15. stoic

16. The _____ atmosphere of the park made it a great place to read or relax.

adj. calm, peaceful, undisturbed; not easily upset or agitated; showing little excitement, enthusiasm, or emotion

17. Looking out over the _____ lake, I felt at peace.

adj. peaceful, calm, and free from disturbance or agitation; without stress or anxiety; serene or restful

18. The manager warned the employees not to _____ during work hours.

v. to waste time or procrastinate by engaging in idle or aimless activity, often with a lack of focus or purpose

19. The medication made him feel _____ and drowsy.

adj. feeling sluggish or drowsy; lacking energy or enthusiasm; apathetic; inactive

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

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

21. His _____ approach to studying made him stay caught up in his classes.

adj. lacking enthusiasm or energy; lazy or sluggish; showing a lack of interest or concern

22. The organization worked to bring together _____ groups in the community.

adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

23. He couldn't help but _____ during the long and boring presentation.

v. to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen

ANSWERS: 16. placid, 17. tranquil, 18. dillydally, 19. lethargic, 20. creditor, 21. lackadaisical, 22. disparate, 23. yawn

24. Her library books were _____ so she had to pay a fine to check out more.
adj. past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
25. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.
n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
26. The _____ slow movements are a product of their physiology.
n. laziness or lack of energy or motivation to do something; a slow-moving, arboreal mammal found in Central and South America
27. His _____ attitude towards exercise resulted in poor physical fitness.
adj. characterized by laziness or a lack of motivation; disinclined to exertion or effort; sluggish or indolent in physical or mental activity
28. He was in a _____ mood after a long day of fishing.
adj. (of a person) relaxed and comfortable; (of a color, sound, or light) soft and warm
29. The journalist saved a _____ of the interview for later reference.
n. a small piece or brief extract of something
30. After a long day at work, I feel _____ and lack energy.
adj. lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
31. Stock prices _____ daily based on market demand and supply.
v. to rise and fall irregularly or unexpectedly; to vary or change often and unpredictably

ANSWERS: 24. overdue, 25. recession, 26. sloth's, 27. slothful, 28. mellow, 29. snippet, 30. sluggish, 31. fluctuate

32. Can you help me _____ these groceries to the car?

- v.* to carry or transport something, especially by hand or with some effort; to haul or convey something from one place to another

33. The _____ conditions of a country can significantly affect its political stability.

- adj.* relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class

34. His face remained _____ as I delivered the bad news.

- adj.* not showing emotion; calm and unemotional; without physical feeling or sensation

35. Our body's immune system produces antibodies to _____ disease.

- v.* to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it

36. It isn't very reasonable to _____ money with happiness.

- v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

ANSWERS: 32. tote, 33. socioeconomic, 34. impassive, 35. counteract, 36. equate