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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Iseult Gillespie: Why should you read Charles Dickens? | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

orphan

n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them

synonym: waif, stray, fatherless child

(1) **orphan** care, (2) asylum for **orphan** children

The little girl was a war **orphan** and lived in a group home.

gruel

n. a thin, often watery, and bland porridge-like food made by boiling cereal grains or breadcrumbs in water or milk; a simple and unappetizing dish

synonym: porridge, mush, broth

(1) bland **gruel**, (2) cornmeal **gruel**

The hungry child was given a bowl of warm **gruel** to eat.

spinster

n. an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying

synonym: maidenhood, celibacy

(1) bitter **spinster**, (2) lonely **spinster**

The independent **spinster** dedicated her life to her career and personal pursuits.

tattered

adj. worn, torn, or ragged in appearance or condition, usually as a result of long use or hard wear; frayed or falling apart

synonym: ripped, shabby, worn-out

(1) **tattered** clothes, (2) **tattered** umbrella

The **tattered** book was falling apart at the seams from being read too many times.

miser

n. a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally

synonym: skinflint, cheapskate, penny-pincher

(1) **miser** penny-pincher, (2) fuel **miser**

He was such a **miser** that he wouldn't even spend money on coffee.

recognizable

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

synonym: noticeable, perceptible, definite

(1) to a **recognizable** degree, (2) **recognizable** landmark

His car was easily **recognizable** in the parking lot.

adjective

n. a word that describes a noun or pronoun

synonym: modifier, accessory, attribute

(1) **adjective** clause, (2) an attributive **adjective**

The **adjective** "red" describes the color of the apple.

brim

n. the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat

synonym: beak, edge, bound

(1) the **brim** of a hat, (2) the pelvic **brim**

The glass was filled to the **brim** with beer.

brood

v. to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of

young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

synonym : offspring, hatch, family

(1) **brood** about the defeat, (2) a **brood** of chickens

The terrible result **brooded** over her all day long.

speculate

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

synonym : assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

devise

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

synonym : create, concoct, invent

(1) **devise** a plan, (2) **devise** a literary plot

They had to **devise** a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

quirk

n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

synonym : eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

satiric

adj. relating to or characterized by satire, which is the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose or criticize human foolishness, vices, or shortcomings

synonym : satirical, mocking, ironic

(1) **satiric** humor, (2) **satiric** commentary

The **satiric** comedy poked fun at various political figures.

trait

n. a particular feature of your nature

synonym : attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

downtrodden

adj. oppressed or treated unfairly, often by those in power or authority; subjected to harsh or abusive treatment;
(noun) individuals or groups that are oppressed, mistreated, or subjected to cruel or unjust treatment

synonym : oppressed, disadvantaged, abused

(1) defender of the **downtrodden**, (2) **downtrodden** communities

The nonprofit organization provides free legal services to **downtrodden** populations.

grovel

v. to act in a subservient or submissive manner, often excessively, to gain favor, forgiveness, or advantage; to humble oneself before someone in a demeaning or obsequious way

synonym : crawl, kneel, beg

(1) **grovel** for forgiveness, (2) **grovel** before royalty

The employee was forced to **grovel** before his boss after making a mistake.

intricate

adj. having many different parts and small details that all work together

synonym : complicated, convoluted, complex

(1) **intricate** details, (2) **intricate** lacework

The politician managed to deal with that **intricate** issue.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

sordid

adj. involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved

synonym : dirty, seedy, sleazy

(1) **sordid** business, (2) **sordid** past

The tabloid newspaper exposed the **sordid** details of the politician's scandalous affair.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

synonym : illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

titular

adj. holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only

synonym : named, nominal, formal

(1) **titular** character, (2) **titular** ruler

Despite being the company's **titular** leader, she had little authority in decision-making.

convict

v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime;
(noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

synonym : condemn, sentence, judge

(1) **convict** him of manslaughter, (2) **convict** in a jail

He was **convicted** on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.

orphanage

n. an institution for the care of orphans (= a child whose parents are dead)

synonym : home for orphans, children's home, foster home

(1) build an **orphanage**, (2) **orphanage** director

He grew up in a Christian **orphanage** and never knew his biological parents.

slum

n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

synonym : shantytown, slumdwelling, ghetto

(1) **slum** area, (2) **slum** dwellers

The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in **slums**.

schoolmaster

n. a male teacher, especially one who teaches in a school; a person who is seen as an authority in a particular field
synonym: teacher, instructor, educator

(1) **schoolmaster's** duties, (2) strict **schoolmaster**

The **schoolmaster's** detailed lesson plans ensured his students were well-prepared for their exams.

deprivation

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

synonym: poverty, destitution, forfeiture

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

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

plight

n. a difficult or unfortunate situation

synonym: crisis, predicament, trouble

(1) miserable **plight**, (2) the **plight** of the poor

The government has ignored the **plight** of the homeless population.

plead

v. to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy

synonym: beg, implore, supplicate

(1) **plead** for mercy, (2) **plead** a political cause

He **pleaded** with the authorities to release his son, who had been wrongly accused.

bumble

v. to move or act clumsily or awkwardly; to speak or behave in an inept or confused manner

synonym: stumble, fumble, blunder

(1) **bumble** his way into a high-paying job, (2) **bumble** through his speeches

She tends to **bumble** through her work, making careless

errors along the way.

ensnare

v. to entrap or catch in a snare or trap; to capture or trap someone or something physically, mentally, or emotionally

synonym: entangle, trap, ensnarl

(1) **ensnare** victims, (2) **ensnare** a suspect

The spider used its web to **ensnare** its prey.

underworld

n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

synonym: hell, netherworld, underworld

(1) god of the **underworld**, (2) criminal **underworld**

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the **underworld**, where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

portray

v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

synonym: depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym: bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

incubator

n. an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses

synonym: hatchery, brooder, nursery

(1) infant **incubator**, (2) business **incubator** program
The eggs were placed in an artificial **incubator** to ensure proper hatching conditions.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student
He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

enigma

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

synonym: mystery, puzzle, riddle

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

pluck

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym: grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds
She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

obscurity

n. the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction

synonym: vagueness, ambiguity, uncertainty

(1) sink into **obscurity**, (2) **obscurity** of expression
The **obscurity** of the author's writing style made it difficult to understand the book.

benefactor

n. a person or organization who provides help, support, or financial assistance to others or a cause, often without expecting anything in return

synonym: patron, supporter, sponsor

(1) anonymous **benefactor**, (2) kind-hearted **benefactor**

She thanked her generous **benefactor** for supporting her education.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym: drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

shadowy

adj. dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain

synonym: dim, dark, obscure

(1) **shadowy** doorway, (2) **shadowy** past

The **shadowy** figure in the corner of the room made me uneasy.

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.

destabilize

v. to cause something to become less stable or secure

synonym: unsettle, disrupt, upset

(1) **destabilize** the market, (2) **destabilize** a good relationship

The political crisis **destabilized** the country and caused widespread turmoil.

puzzling

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

synonym: baffling, confusing, enigmatic

(1) **puzzling** behavior, (2) **puzzling** questions

The detective found the clues **puzzling** and couldn't solve the case immediately.

homage

n. a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute

synonym : respect, deference, reverence

(1) paying **homage** to tradition, (2) vassal **homage**

The crowd gave a standing ovation as a sign of **homage** to the retiring athlete.

sparkle

v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

synonym : shine, glimmer, twinkle

(1) **sparkle** like a gem, (2) **sparkle** from receiving light

The diamond **sparkled** in the sunlight.

panoramic

adj. relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing

synonym : expansive, wide-ranging, scenic

(1) **panoramic** landscape, (2) **panoramic** camera

We hiked to the top of the hill for a **panoramic** view of the city below.

worldview

n. a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world

synonym : perspective, position, viewpoint

(1) mainstream **worldview**, (2) the **worldview** of the ancient civilization

The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing **worldviews**.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym : echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

squalid

adj. dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty

synonym : dirty, dingy, filthy

(1) **squalid** apartment, (2) **squalid** district

The **squalid** living conditions were a breeding ground for disease.

bleak

adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope

synonym: miserable, pathetic, dim

(1) prospects were **bleak**, (2) **bleak** future

The political landscape looks **bleak** without a change of administration.

pierce

v. to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument

synonym: jab, penetrate, stab

(1) **pierce** the armored shells, (2) **pierce** a mystery

The extreme cold **pierced** our bones.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sa____c commentary *adj.* relating to or characterized by satire, which is the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose or criticize human foolishness, vices, or shortcomings
2. accurately po____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
3. mainstream wo_____ew *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
4. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
5. sq____d apartment *adj.* dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty
6. defender of the dow_____en *adj.* oppressed or treated unfairly, often by those in power or authority; subjected to harsh or abusive treatment; (noun) individuals or groups that are oppressed, mistreated, or subjected to cruel or unjust treatment
7. artistic en___a *n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
8. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature

ANSWERS: 1. satiric, 2. portray, 3. worldview, 4. mimic, 5. squalid, 6. downtrodden, 7. enigma, 8. trait

9. business in_____or program *n.* an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses
10. or_____ge director *n.* an institution for the care of orphans (= a child whose parents are dead)
11. vassal ho___e *n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
12. bu___e through his speeches *v.* to move or act clumsily or awkwardly; to speak or behave in an inept or confused manner
13. in_____te lacework *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
14. s__m area *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
15. ta_____ed clothes *adj.* worn, torn, or ragged in appearance or condition, usually as a result of long use or hard wear; frayed or falling apart
16. the pl___t of the poor *n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation
17. a br__d of chickens *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

ANSWERS: 9. incubator, 10. orphanage, 11. homage, 12. bumble, 13. intricate, 14. slum, 15. tattered, 16. plight, 17. brood

18. sp____e like a gem *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
19. dow_____en communities *adj.* oppressed or treated unfairly, often by those in power or authority; subjected to harsh or abusive treatment; (noun) individuals or groups that are oppressed, mistreated, or subjected to cruel or unjust treatment
20. co____t in a jail *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
21. pl__d for mercy *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
22. or___n care *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
23. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
24. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
25. criminal und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
26. sink into ob_____ty *n.* the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction
27. prospects were bl__k *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
28. en____e victims *v.* to entrap or catch in a snare or trap; to capture or trap someone or something physically, mentally, or emotionally

ANSWERS: 18. sparkle, 19. downtrodden, 20. convict, 21. plead, 22. orphan, 23. resonate, 24. protagonist, 25. underworld, 26. obscurity, 27. bleak, 28. ensnare

29. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
30. so___d past *adj.* involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved
31. des_____ze a good relationship *v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
32. bu___e his way into a high-paying job *v.* to move or act clumsily or awkwardly; to speak or behave in an inept or confused manner
33. gr___l for forgiveness *v.* to act in a subservient or submissive manner, often excessively, to gain favor, forgiveness, or advantage; to humble oneself before someone in a demeaning or obsequious way
34. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
35. cor_____le officials *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
36. sch_____ter's duties *n.* a male teacher, especially one who teaches in a school; a person who is seen as an authority in a particular field
37. build an or_____ge *n.* an institution for the care of orphans (= a child whose parents are dead)
38. strict sch_____ter *n.* a male teacher, especially one who teaches in a school; a person who is seen as an authority in a particular field
39. s__m dwellers *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

ANSWERS: 29. mimic, 30. sordid, 31. destabilize, 32. bumble, 33. grovel, 34. industrious, 35. corruptible, 36. schoolmaster, 37. orphanage, 38. schoolmaster, 39. slum

40. cornmeal gr__l *n.* a thin, often watery, and bland porridge-like food made by boiling cereal grains or breadcrumbs in water or milk; a simple and unappetizing dish
41. play a pro_____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
42. kind-hearted ben_____or *n.* a person or organization who provides help, support, or financial assistance to others or a cause, often without expecting anything in return
43. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
44. miserable pl____t *n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation
45. sh_____y doorway *adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
46. po_____y feelings in words *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
47. co_____t him of manslaughter *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
48. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
49. mi__r penny-pincher *n.* a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
50. bl__k future *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope

ANSWERS: 40. gruel, 41. protagonist, 42. benefactor, 43. pluck, 44. plight, 45. shadowy, 46. portray, 47. convict, 48. industrious, 49. miser, 50. bleak

51. so___d business *adj.* involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved
52. anonymous ben____or *n.* a person or organization who provides help, support, or financial assistance to others or a cause, often without expecting anything in return
53. pu____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
54. bland gr__l *n.* a thin, often watery, and bland porridge-like food made by boiling cereal grains or breadcrumbs in water or milk; a simple and unappetizing dish
55. rec____ble landmark *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
56. asylum for or___n children *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
57. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
58. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
59. br__d about the defeat *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

ANSWERS: 51. sordid, 52. benefactor, 53. puzzling, 54. gruel, 55. recognizable, 56. orphan, 57. starve, 58. quirk, 59. brood

60. mysterious en___a *n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
61. to a rec_____ble degree *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
62. the wo_____ew of the ancient civilization *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
63. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
64. pa_____ic camera *adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
65. lonely sp_____er *n.* an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying
66. en_____e a suspect *v.* to entrap or catch in a snare or trap; to capture or trap someone or something physically, mentally, or emotionally
67. ti_____r ruler *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
68. infant in_____or *n.* an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses

ANSWERS: 60. enigma, 61. recognizable, 62. worldview, 63. corruptible, 64. panoramic, 65. spinster, 66. ensnare, 67. titular, 68. incubator

69. ad_____ve clause *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
70. sp_____e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
71. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
72. god of the und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
73. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
74. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
75. dep_____on of liberty *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
76. pi___e the armored shells *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
77. sh_____y past *adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
78. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
79. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

ANSWERS: 69. adjective, 70. sparkle, 71. quirk, 72. underworld, 73. pluck, 74. starve, 75. deprivation, 76. pierce, 77. shadowy, 78. trait, 79. speculate

80. ta____ed umbrella *adj.* worn, torn, or ragged in appearance or condition, usually as a result of long use or hard wear; frayed or falling apart
81. ti____r character *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
82. fuel mi__r *n.* a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
83. de____t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
84. gr____l before royalty *v.* to act in a subservient or submissive manner, often excessively, to gain favor, forgiveness, or advantage; to humble oneself before someone in a demeaning or obsequious way
85. des____ze the market *v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
86. the b__m of a hat *n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
87. sp____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
88. de____e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
89. pr____l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

ANSWERS: 80. tattered, 81. titular, 82. miser, 83. depict, 84. grovel, 85. destabilize, 86. brim, 87. speculate, 88. devise, 89. propel

90. deeply re_____te with the consumers *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
91. pl__d a political cause *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
92. ob_____ty of expression *n.* the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction
93. pi___e a mystery *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
94. an attributive ad_____ve *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
95. pr___l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
96. sa_____c humor *adj.* relating to or characterized by satire, which is the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose or criticize human foolishness, vices, or shortcomings
97. de___t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
98. in_____te details *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
99. de___e a literary plot *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
100. bitter sp_____er *n.* an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying
101. sq_____d district *adj.* dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty

ANSWERS: 90. resonate, 91. plead, 92. obscurity, 93. pierce, 94. adjective, 95. propel, 96. satiric, 97. depict, 98. intricate, 99. devise, 100. spinster, 101. squalid

102. paying ho___e to tradition *n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
103. pa_____ic landscape *adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
104. pu_____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
105. the pelvic b__m *n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
106. chronic sleep dep_____on *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life

ANSWERS: 102. homage, 103. panoramic, 104. puzzling, 105. brim, 106. deprivation

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The independent _____ dedicated her life to her career and personal pursuits.
n. an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying
2. The little girl was a war _____ and lived in a group home.
n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
3. He was such a _____ that he wouldn't even spend money on coffee.
n. a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
4. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature
5. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
6. The _____ of the author's writing style made it difficult to understand the book.
n. the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction
7. Losing him is great _____ to our team.
n. a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
8. The crowd gave a standing ovation as a sign of _____ to the retiring athlete.
n. a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute

ANSWERS: 1. spinster, 2. orphan, 3. miser, 4. traits, 5. depicted, 6. obscurity, 7. deprivation, 8. homage

9. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
10. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
11. The government has ignored the _____ of the homeless population.
n. a difficult or unfortunate situation
12. The _____ detailed lesson plans ensured his students were well-prepared for their exams.
n. a male teacher, especially one who teaches in a school; a person who is seen as an authority in a particular field
13. The nonprofit organization provides free legal services to _____ populations.
adj. oppressed or treated unfairly, often by those in power or authority; subjected to harsh or abusive treatment; (noun) individuals or groups that are oppressed, mistreated, or subjected to cruel or unjust treatment
14. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
15. The ancient text remains an _____ challenging scholars to unravel its meaning.
n. a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution

ANSWERS: 9. puzzling, 10. speculated, 11. plight, 12. schoolmaster's, 13. downtrodden, 14. quirks, 15. enigma,

16. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.

- v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

17. The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing _____.

- n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world

18. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.

- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

19. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.

- v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

20. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.

- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

21. Despite being the company's _____ leader, she had little authority in decision-making.

- adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only

22. The _____ figure in the corner of the room made me uneasy.

- adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain

23. She tends to _____ through her work, making careless errors along the way.

- v.* to move or act clumsily or awkwardly; to speak or behave in an inept or confused manner

ANSWERS: 16. starve, 17. worldviews, 18. industrious, 19. propel, 20. mimic, 21. titular, 22. shadowy, 23. bumble

24. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the _____ where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.
- n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
25. She thanked her generous _____ for supporting her education.
- n.* a person or organization who provides help, support, or financial assistance to others or a cause, often without expecting anything in return
26. The diamond _____ in the sunlight.
- v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
27. The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in _____.
- n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
28. The tabloid newspaper exposed the _____ details of the politician's scandalous affair.
- adj.* involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved
29. The _____ book was falling apart at the seams from being read too many times.
- adj.* worn, torn, or ragged in appearance or condition, usually as a result of long use or hard wear; frayed or falling apart
30. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
- n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

ANSWERS: 24. underworld, 25. benefactor, 26. sparkled, 27. slums, 28. sordid, 29. tattered, 30. protagonist's

31. We hiked to the top of the hill for a _____ view of the city below.

adj. relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area;
all-encompassing

32. The _____ "red" describes the color of the apple.

n. a word that describes a noun or pronoun

33. She _____ the flowers off the bush.

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of
feathers

34. The glass was filled to the _____ with beer.

n. the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at
the bottom of a hat

35. The extreme cold _____ our bones.

v. to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument

36. The _____ living conditions were a breeding ground for disease.

adj. dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty

37. The spider used its web to _____ its prey.

v. to entrap or catch in a snare or trap; to capture or trap someone or something
physically, mentally, or emotionally

38. His car was easily _____ in the parking lot.

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

39. The terrible result _____ over her all day long.

v. to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious,
or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one
hatching or birth

ANSWERS: 31. panoramic, 32. adjective, 33. plucked, 34. brim, 35. pierced, 36.
squalid, 37. ensnare, 38. recognizable, 39. brooded

40. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
41. The _____ comedy poked fun at various political figures.
adj. relating to or characterized by satire, which is the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose or criticize human foolishness, vices, or shortcomings
42. He was _____ on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.
v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
43. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.
adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
44. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
45. He grew up in a Christian _____ and never knew his biological parents.
n. an institution for the care of orphans (= a child whose parents are dead)
46. The eggs were placed in an artificial _____ to ensure proper hatching conditions.
n. an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses
47. The hungry child was given a bowl of warm _____ to eat.
n. a thin, often watery, and bland porridge-like food made by boiling cereal grains or breadcrumbs in water or milk; a simple and unappetizing dish

ANSWERS: 40. corruptible, 41. satiric, 42. convicted, 43. bleak, 44. portray, 45. orphanage, 46. incubator, 47. gruel

48. They had to _____ a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.
- v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
49. He _____ with the authorities to release his son, who had been wrongly accused.
- v. to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
50. The employee was forced to _____ before his boss after making a mistake.
- v. to act in a subservient or submissive manner, often excessively, to gain favor, forgiveness, or advantage; to humble oneself before someone in a demeaning or obsequious way
51. The politician managed to deal with that _____ issue.
- adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
52. The political crisis _____ the country and caused widespread turmoil.
- v. to cause something to become less stable or secure
53. The sound _____ well in this theater.
- v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

ANSWERS: 48. devise, 49. pleaded, 50. grovel, 51. intricate, 52. destabilized, 53. resonates