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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

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

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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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.

plague

n. any epidemic disease with a high death rate; (also called pest) a serious, sometimes fatal, infection spread by rats that causes fever and swellings on the body

synonym: epidemic, pandemic, pest

(1) catch the **plague**, (2) deadly **plague**

Our farm experienced a **plague** of locusts this year.

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.

striking

adj. attractive and distinctive enough to draw notice; exceedingly appealing, frequently in an odd manner

synonym: arresting, astonishing, exceptional

(1) **striking** innovation, (2) **striking** evidence

The two plays have many **striking** parallels.

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.

feat

n. a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery

synonym: achievement, accomplishment, exploit

(1) intellectual **feat**, (2) **feat** accomplishment

It is an incredible **feat** to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

fiction

n. the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true

synonym: fantasy, fable, invention

(1) stuff of science **fiction**, (2) non- **fiction** bestseller

Truth is stranger than **fiction**.

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.

anticipation

n. the action of expecting that something might happen in the future and perhaps doing something about it now

synonym: expectation, prediction, prospect

(1) **anticipation** of her arrival, (2) hazard **anticipation**

She waited in eager **anticipation** for his arrival.

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.

plot

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

synonym: scheme, plan, design

(1) **plot** twist, (2) **plot** a revolution

The **plot** of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

twist

v. to bend or turn something into a certain shape

synonym: wrench, turn, twirl

(1) **twist** around to the left, (2) **twist** a wet towel

He **twisted** pieces of rope out of straw.

mystery

n. something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

synonym: enigma, puzzle, secret

(1) **mystery** novel, (2) unsolved **mystery**

The **mystery** surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.

serial

adj. consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents

synonym: consecutive, sequential, successive

(1) **serial** killer, (2) **serial** number

The company is launching a new line of **serial** products aimed at young adults.

release

v. to set free or allow to escape from confinement

synonym: free, let go, discharge

(1) **release** a prisoner, (2) **release** CO2 into the air

The animal rights group worked to **release** the dolphins back into the wild.

chapter

n. a separate section of a written work usually numbered and titled

synonym: section, phase, episode

(1) an introductory **chapter**, (2) **chapter** of a political party

The final **chapter** provides a summary of the discussion.

affordable

adj. not expensive and able to pay

synonym: cheap, reasonable, inexpensive

(1) **affordable** housing, (2) **affordable** solution

The automaker has been providing **affordable** car financing options since last year.

journal

n. a newspaper or magazine specialized in a specific topic or profession

synonym: periodical, diary, bulletin

(1) scientific **journal**, (2) **journal** articles

The physician is reading the **journals** related to medicine

prompt

v. to make someone decide to or try to do something, or to make something happen

synonym: actuate, inspire, incite

(1) **prompt** a feeling of hunger, (2) **prompt** a debate

That incident **prompted** a nationwide chain reaction regarding the crackdown on illegal groups.

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.

cliff-hanger

n. a situation or ending in a story, movie, or TV show that is characterized by intense suspense or uncertainty, usually leaving the audience eager to find out the resolution or outcome in the next installment or episode

(1) **cliff-hanger** ending, (2) suspenseful **cliff-hanger**

The movie ended with a thrilling **cliff-hanger**, leaving the audience eagerly anticipating the sequel.

revelation

n. a fact that has been disclosed to others, especially a surprising one; the act of revealing or telling the fact or truth to others; communication of knowledge to humans by a divine or supernatural agency

synonym: disclosure, telling, annunciation

(1) a divine **revelation**, (2) the **revelation** of a secret

The shocking **revelation** embarrassed the administration.

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.

hype

n. advertisements and media discussions informing the public about a product and how nice or vital it is

synonym: hoopla, ballyhoo, advertising

(1) media **hype**, (2) emotional **hype**

The audience was not duped by the media's **hype** around the event.

wit

n. the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way

synonym: humor, comedy, funniness

(1) the **wit** of man, (2) full of **wit**

He has the **wit** to keep talking about this topic.

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.

scenario

n. a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work

synonym : plan, scheme, procedure

(1) the worst case **scenario**, (2) number of different **scenarios**

The president prepared several possible **scenarios** for an enemy attack.

exhibit

v. to show something in public for people to enjoy or to provide them with information

synonym : display, expose, show

(1) **exhibit** a bad attitude, (2) **exhibit** a great talent

Other technology industries **exhibit** similarly explosive growth.

absurd

adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical

synonym : ridiculous, foolish, idiotic

(1) **absurd** storyline, (2) an **absurd** amount of money

We immediately rejected his **absurd** suggestion.

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.

bob

v. to move up and down quickly and repeatedly, often in a short, jerky motion; to cut, trim, or shorten hair, especially by repeatedly snipping with scissors; (noun) a hairstyle in which the hair is cut short and even all around, usually above the shoulders

synonym: bobble, bounce, wag

(1) **bob** a quick curtsy, (2) **bob** on the surface of the water
I need to **bob** my head to the beat of the music.

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.

cheer

v. to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval

synonym: comfort, encourage, hearten

(1) **cheer** for the home team, (2) **cheer** me up

Supporters in the stands **cheered** at every goal.

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.

backdrop

n. a painted or photographed scene or setting that is used as a background for a stage, film, or other performance

synonym: background, setting, context

(1) **backdrop** of poverty, (2) perfect **backdrop**

The lush green forest provided a picturesque **backdrop** for the photo shoot.

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.

instance

n. a particular example or single occurrence of something

synonym: example, sample, illustration

(1) for **instance**, (2) notable **instance**

These articles cite five **instances** of climate change.

industrial

adj. of or relating to or resulting from industry

synonym: manufacturing, mechanical

(1) beginning of the **industrial** revolution, (2) **industrial** alcohol

Industrial design has become more focused on human nature aspect than ever before.

revolution

n. a large-scale attempt to overthrow the government of a country, often using violence or war;

synonym: coup, innovation, rebellion

(1) beginning of the industrial **revolution**, (2) a political **revolution**

The **revolution** by the citizen resulted in a redistribution of wealth.

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.

debtor

n. a person or entity that owes money or is in debt to another party; someone who is obligated to fulfill a financial obligation

synonym: debtee, borrower, owing party

(1) defaulting **debtor**, (2) personal **debtor**

The **debtor's** credit score suffered due to missed payments.

influence

n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself

synonym: power, leverage, effect

(1) **influence** a child's future, (2) **influence** the daily life

The former emperor had a particular **influence** even after he abdicated.

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**.

grim

adj. looking or sounding very serious or gloomy

synonym: fierce, harsh, gloomy

(1) **grim** reality, (2) a **grim-featured** man

The result presented a **grim** picture of inefficiency and corruption.

invisible

adj. impossible or nearly impossible to see

synonym: hidden, imperceptible, unseen

(1) an **invisible** asset, (2) **invisible** stars

The phenomenon is **invisible** at optical wavelengths.

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.

scam

n. a clever and dishonest, and often illegal, business scheme; a fraud

synonym: swindle, blackmail, deception

(1) a phishing **scam**, (2) **scam** phone call

That bank employee prevented the older woman from falling for the **scam**.

unwanted

adj. not wanted or desired

synonym: undesired, unneeded

(1) **unwanted** attention, (2) **unwanted** guests

He threw away the **unwanted** items in his closet.

fee

n. a sum of money charged for a particular service

synonym: charge, cost, expense

(1) **fee** calculation, (2) service **fee**

The lawyer's **fee** for the case was \$10,000.

violent

adj. involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something

synonym: aggressive, intense, turbulent

(1) victim of a **violent** crime, (2) **violent** incident

The protesters became **violent** when the police tried to disperse them.

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.

illustrate

v. to provide pictures, photographs, diagrams, etc. in a book or something for explanation

synonym: demonstrate, explain, exemplify

(1) **illustrate** a key point, (2) **illustrate** a story
The company's financial records **illustrate** how successful it has been.

brutal

adj. harsh or cruel
synonym: harsh, cruel, barbarous

(1) **brutal** bully, (2) **brutal** honesty
The **brutal** attack left the victim with serious injuries.

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.

flee

v. to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
synonym: exit, escape, run away

(1) **flee** their homes, (2) **flee** abroad
It is a basic instinct to **flee** from a dangerous situation.

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.

criminal

n. a person who has committed a crime

synonym: offender, lawbreaker, delinquent

(1) wanted **criminal**, (2) **criminal** investigation

The police are searching for the **criminal** who stole the jewels.

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.

frequent

adj. happening constantly

synonym: periodic, recurring, routine

(1) **frequent** absence, (2) **frequent** use

His heartaches are less **frequent** now.

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.

cruel

adj. feeling or showing pleasure in causing pain or suffering to others

synonym: heartless, sadistic, vicious

(1) a **cruel** and unusual punishment, (2) **cruel** joke
The dictator was known for his **cruel** and oppressive regime.

tradition

n. a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

synonym: custom, practice, ritual

(1) a **tradition** of a culture, (2) against **tradition**

It is a **tradition** in many families to have a big Thanksgiving dinner with all their relatives.

fade

v. to vanish; to fade away; to lose color; to lose freshness

synonym: languish, wither

(1) **fade** away almost completely, (2) **fade** in importance

My memory will **fade**, but my heart will live on.

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.

modern

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times

synonym: contemporary, stylish, current

(1) **modern** poetry, (2) pre- **modern** agricultural society

Their headquarters are in a **modern** skyscraper.

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.

mobility

n. the ability to move or be moved freely or easily from one place, job, or social class to another

synonym: flexibility, maneuverability

(1) lack in **mobility**, (2) improve social **mobility**

I have limited **mobility** in my arms.

dual

adj. having two parts, aspects, or elements

synonym: twofold, binary, double

(1) **dual** purpose, (2) **dual** nationality

This laptop has a **dual-core** processor, making it fast and efficient.

harsh

adj. severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit

synonym: brutal, severe, backbreaking

(1) **harsh** climate, (2) use of **harsh** chemicals

The prime minister faced **harsh** criticism.

simultaneously

adv. at the same time

synonym: concurrently, coincidentally, together

(1) **simultaneously** affected, (2) take several inputs

simultaneously

Two students answered the teacher's question

simultaneously.

possibility

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

synonym: chance, prospect, likelihood

(1) **possibility** for growth, (2) **possibility** of a major earthquake

The **possibility** of getting the disease will drastically increase.

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.

anonymous

adj. having no known name, identity, or known source

synonym: nameless, unidentified, unnamed

(1) **anonymous** letter, (2) **anonymous** house

She received several **anonymous** calls.

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.

victim

n. a person who has been harmed, injured, or otherwise negatively affected by a particular action, circumstance, or event

synonym : prey, target, sufferer

(1) **victim** support, (2) **victim** compensation

The **victim** of the crime deserves justice and support to recover from the trauma.

ambition

n. a strong wish to do or achieve something

synonym : purpose, aim, endeavor

(1) an **ambition** for political power, (2) boundless **ambition**

Greed and **ambition** composed his personality.

negotiate

v. to have formal discussions with someone to reach an agreement

synonym : discuss, mediate, bargain

(1) **negotiate** a settlement, (2) **negotiate** the price of the house

We are always happy to **negotiate** a discount.

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.

cast

v. to cause light or shadow to appear on a surface; to assign or choose someone such as an actor or representative, especially by selection process

synonym : throw, project, select

(1) **cast** a ballot, (2) **cast** a charming eye

This accident **cast** a dark shadow over their lives.

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.

constantly

adv. all the time

synonym: continuously, always, frequently

(1) a **constantly** innovative enterprise, (2) a **constantly** varying mind

The mobile application industry is **constantly** changing.

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.

typical

adj. having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things

synonym: characteristic, usual, distinctive

(1) **typical** leader, (2) fairly **typical** symptoms

This artwork is **typical** of her work.

resolve

v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

synonym: decide, determine, fix

(1) **resolve** a dispute, (2) **resolve** the computer error

This company **resolves** its battery problem completely.

novel

n. an extended fictional work in prose; usually in the form of a story; (adjective) original and of a kind not seen before

synonym: fiction, story, (adjective) innovative

(1) historical **novel**, (2) **novel** effect

The **novel** has largely gotten positive feedback.

disappear

v. to cease to exist or be visible

synonym : fade, evaporate, vanish

(1) **disappear** without a trace, (2) **disappear** after a week

They watched the train **disappear** into the distance.

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.

circumstance

n. the specific conditions or events that surround a particular situation or occurrence

synonym : condition, context, environment

(1) **circumstance** of birth, (2) **circumstance** of injury

She explained the **circumstances** surrounding the accident.

debate

n. a formal discussion or argument of opposing viewpoints, often to persuade others to adopt a specific position; a public discussion, often on an issue of current interest, in which participants offer opinions and differing perspectives

synonym : argument, discussion, dispute

(1) **debate** topic, (2) **debate** competition

The **debate** over climate change continues to be a hot topic in politics.

intent

n. a strong determination or attention to do or achieve something; (adjective) having a strong determination to do or achieve something

synonym : purpose, aim, goal

(1) the **intent** of a question, (2) **intent** gaze

The designer's **intent** was to create a minimalist aesthetic for the interior of the building.

murder

n. the crime of killing somebody intentionally

synonym : slaying, killing

(1) **murder** in the second degree, (2) attempted **murder**
This intriguing **murder** mystery remains unsolved.

adaptation

n. the action or process of changing to suit different conditions

synonym: adaption, adjustment, transformation

(1) **adaptation** ability, (2) language **adaptation**

The company's **adaptation** approach has been highly effective.

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.

imply

v. to indicate the truth or existence of something without referring to it

synonym: hint, indicate, denote

(1) **imply** a strong correlation, (2) **imply** the presence of alien

The salespeople speak in technical terms to **imply** that they are more knowledgeable than the customer.

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.

praise

n. an expression that shows approval and admiration of the achievements or characteristics of someone or something

synonym: acclaim, honor, commendation

(1) attain critical **praise**, (2) universal **praise**

The drama series mainly received **praise**.

adventure

n. a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous

synonym: experience, happening, incident

(1) gastronomic **adventures**, (2) **adventure** film

He sailed the Atlantic Ocean multiple times during his **adventures**.

discovery

n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known

synonym : finding, uncovering, detection

(1) a scientific **discovery**, (2) the great **discovery** of the century

Her research team made an important **discovery**.

unexpected

adj. not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen

synonym : surprising, unanticipated, incredible

(1) an **unexpected** visitor, (2) some **unexpected** events

The **unexpected** rainstorm caused the collapse of the corral.

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. s__m area | <i>n.</i> a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect |
| 2. the rev_____on of a secret | <i>n.</i> a fact that has been disclosed to others, especially a surprising one; the act of revealing or telling the fact or truth to others; communication of knowledge to humans by a divine or supernatural agency |
| 3. f_e calculation | <i>n.</i> a sum of money charged for a particular service |
| 4. stuff of science fi_____n | <i>n.</i> the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true |
| 5. the pl____t of the poor | <i>n.</i> a difficult or unfortunate situation |
| 6. f__e abroad | <i>v.</i> to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger |
| 7. s__m phone call | <i>n.</i> a clever and dishonest, and often illegal, business scheme; a fraud |
| 8. mo____n poetry | <i>adj.</i> of or belonging to the present time or recent times |
| 9. cornmeal gr__l | <i>n.</i> 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: 1. slum, 2. revelation, 3. fee, 4. fiction, 5. plight, 6. flee, 7. scam, 8. modern, 9. gruel

19. criminal und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
20. f__e in importance *v.* to vanish; to fade away; to lose color; to lose freshness
21. bl__k future *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
22. br___l honesty *adj.* harsh or cruel
23. br___l bully *adj.* harsh or cruel
24. in_____le stars *adj.* impossible or nearly impossible to see
25. im__y a strong correlation *v.* to indicate the truth or existence of something without referring to it
26. f__e their homes *v.* to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
27. the worst case sc_____io *n.* a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work
28. 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
29. so___d past *adj.* involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved
30. an_____us letter *adj.* having no known name, identity, or known source

ANSWERS: 19. underworld, 20. fade, 21. bleak, 22. brutal, 23. brutal, 24. invisible, 25. imply, 26. flee, 27. scenario, 28. downtrodden, 29. sordid, 30. anonymous

31. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
32. against tr_____on *n.* a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society
33. bu___e through his speeches *v.* to move or act clumsily or awkwardly; to speak or behave in an inept or confused manner
34. se___l number *adj.* consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents
35. ill_____te a key point *v.* to provide pictures, photographs, diagrams, etc. in a book or something for explanation
36. an introductory ch_____r *n.* a separate section of a written work usually numbered and titled
37. my_____y novel *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
38. sp_____e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
39. p__t a revolution *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

ANSWERS: 31. quirk, 32. tradition, 33. bumble, 34. serial, 35. illustrate, 36. chapter, 37. mystery, 38. sparkle, 39. plot

40. pos_____ty of a major earthquake *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
41. sp_____e like a gem *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
42. 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
43. an in_____le asset *adj.* impossible or nearly impossible to see
44. 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
45. pl__d a political cause *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
46. pr____t a debate *v.* to make someone decide to or try to do something, or to make something happen
47. de____e competition *n.* a formal discussion or argument of opposing viewpoints, often to persuade others to adopt a specific position; a public discussion, often on an issue of current interest, in which participants offer opinions and differing perspectives
48. d__l purpose *adj.* having two parts, aspects, or elements
49. catch the pl____e *n.* any epidemic disease with a high death rate; (also called pest) a serious, sometimes fatal, infection spread by rats that causes fever and swellings on the body

ANSWERS: 40. possibility, 41. sparkle, 42. starve, 43. invisible, 44. schoolmaster, 45. plead, 46. prompt, 47. debate, 48. dual, 49. plague

50. d__l nationality	<i>adj.</i> having two parts, aspects, or elements
51. pro_____st of drama	<i>n.</i> the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
52. pa_____ic camera	<i>adj.</i> relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
53. perfect ba_____op	<i>n.</i> a painted or photographed scene or setting that is used as a background for a stage, film, or other performance
54. gr___l for forgiveness	<i>v.</i> 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
55. personality tr__ts	<i>n.</i> a particular feature of your nature
56. deeply re_____te with the consumers	<i>v.</i> to be filled with a deep echoing sound
57. an am_____on for political power	<i>n.</i> a strong wish to do or achieve something
58. ex_____t a bad attitude	<i>v.</i> to show something in public for people to enjoy or to provide them with information
59. non-fi_____n bestseller	<i>n.</i> the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
60. build an or_____ge	<i>n.</i> an institution for the care of orphans (= a child whose parents are dead)
61. scientific jo_____l	<i>n.</i> a newspaper or magazine specialized in a specific topic or profession

ANSWERS: 50. dual, 51. protagonist, 52. panoramic, 53. backdrop, 54. grovel, 55. trait, 56. resonate, 57. ambition, 58. exhibit, 59. fiction, 60. orphanage, 61. journal

62. un_____ed attention *adj.* not wanted or desired
63. ba_____op of poverty *n.* a painted or photographed scene or setting that is used as a background for a stage, film, or other performance
64. 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
65. a scientific di_____ry *n.* the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
66. no__l effect *n.* an extended fictional work in prose; usually in the form of a story; (adjective) original and of a kind not seen before
67. en_____e victims *v.* to entrap or catch in a snare or trap; to capture or trap someone or something physically, mentally, or emotionally
68. mainstream wo_____ew *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
69. tw__t around to the left *v.* to bend or turn something into a certain shape
70. de__t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
71. in__t gaze *n.* a strong determination or attention to do or achieve something; (adjective) having a strong determination to do or achieve something
72. accurately po_____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

ANSWERS: 62. unwanted, 63. backdrop, 64. schoolmaster, 65. discovery, 66. novel, 67. ensnare, 68. worldview, 69. twist, 70. depict, 71. intent, 72. portray

73. ada_____on ability *n.* the action or process of changing to suit different conditions
74. sq_____d district *adj.* dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty
75. an ab____d amount of money *adj.* ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical
76. un_____ed guests *adj.* not wanted or desired
77. use of ha__h chemicals *adj.* severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit
78. beginning of the industrial rev_____on *n.* a large-scale attempt to overthrow the government of a country, often using violence or war;
79. aff_____le housing *adj.* not expensive and able to pay
80. cir_____nce of injury *n.* the specific conditions or events that surround a particular situation or occurrence
81. hazard ant_____ion *n.* the action of expecting that something might happen in the future and perhaps doing something about it now
82. attain critical pr____e *n.* an expression that shows approval and admiration of the achievements or characteristics of someone or something
83. pa_____ic landscape *adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
84. lack in mo_____ty *n.* the ability to move or be moved freely or easily from one place, job, or social class to another

ANSWERS: 73. adaptation, 74. squalid, 75. absurd, 76. unwanted, 77. harsh, 78. revolution, 79. affordable, 80. circumstance, 81. anticipation, 82. praise, 83. panoramic, 84. mobility

85. fairly ty____l symptoms *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
86. vi____m compensation *n.* a person who has been harmed, injured, or otherwise negatively affected by a particular action, circumstance, or event
87. in____ce a child's future *n.* the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
88. cli____ger ending *n.* a situation or ending in a story, movie, or TV show that is characterized by intense suspense or uncertainty, usually leaving the audience eager to find out the resolution or outcome in the next installment or episode
89. ch____r of a political party *n.* a separate section of a written work usually numbered and titled
90. play a pro____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
91. aff____le solution *adj.* not expensive and able to pay
92. the w_t of man *n.* the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way
93. number of different sc____ios *n.* a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work
94. re____e the computer error *v.* to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
95. pi____e a mystery *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument

ANSWERS: 85. typical, 86. victim, 87. influence, 88. cliff-hanger, 89. chapter, 90. protagonist, 91. affordable, 92. wit, 93. scenario, 94. resolve, 95. pierce

96. attempted mu___r *n.* the crime of killing somebody intentionally
97. boundless am_____on *n.* a strong wish to do or achieve something
98. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
99. an une_____ed visitor *adj.* not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen
100. g__m reality *adj.* looking or sounding very serious or gloomy
101. 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
102. service f_e *n.* a sum of money charged for a particular service
103. or___n care *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
104. sh_____y past *adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
105. re_____e a prisoner *v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement
106. 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
107. cir_____nce of birth *n.* the specific conditions or events that surround a particular situation or occurrence

ANSWERS: 96. murder, 97. ambition, 98. industrious, 99. unexpected, 100. grim, 101. satiric, 102. fee, 103. orphan, 104. shadowy, 105. release, 106. incubator, 107. circumstance

108. ch__r for the home team	<i>v.</i>	to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval
109. defaulting de___r	<i>n.</i>	a person or entity that owes money or is in debt to another party; someone who is obligated to fulfill a financial obligation
110. mi__r penny-pincher	<i>n.</i>	a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
111. f__e away almost completely	<i>v.</i>	to vanish; to fade away; to lose color; to lose freshness
112. in_____ce the daily life	<i>n.</i>	the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
113. c__t a charming eye	<i>v.</i>	to cause light or shadow to appear on a surface; to assign or choose someone such as an actor or representative, especially by selection process
114. beginning of the ind_____al revolution	<i>adj.</i>	of or relating to or resulting from industry
115. emotional h__e	<i>n.</i>	advertisements and media discussions informing the public about a product and how nice or vital it is
116. sh_____y doorway	<i>adj.</i>	dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
117. fuel mi__r	<i>n.</i>	a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
118. in_____te lacework	<i>adj.</i>	having many different parts and small details that all work together
119. an attributive ad_____ve	<i>n.</i>	a word that describes a noun or pronoun

ANSWERS: 108. cheer, 109. debtor, 110. miser, 111. fade, 112. influence, 113. cast, 114. industrial, 115. hype, 116. shadowy, 117. miser, 118. intricate, 119. adjective

120. historical no__l *n.* an extended fictional work in prose; usually in the form of a story; (adjective) original and of a kind not seen before
121. pi___e the armored shells *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
122. 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
123. miserable pl___t *n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation
124. ind____al alcohol *adj.* of or relating to or resulting from industry
125. 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
126. a con____ly varying mind *adv.* all the time
127. de___e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
128. b_b a quick curtsy *v.* to move up and down quickly and repeatedly, often in a short, jerky motion; to cut, trim, or shorten hair, especially by repeatedly snipping with scissors; (noun) a hairstyle in which the hair is cut short and even all around, usually above the shoulders
129. god of the und____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 120. novel, 121. pierce, 122. benefactor, 123. plight, 124. industrial, 125. convict, 126. constantly, 127. devise, 128. bob, 129. underworld

130. pu____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
131. 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
132. 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
133. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
134. notable in____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
135. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
136. sq____d apartment *adj.* dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty
137. a con____ly innovative enterprise *adv.* all the time
138. ty____l leader *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
139. 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
140. a phishing s__m *n.* a clever and dishonest, and often illegal, business scheme; a fraud

ANSWERS: 130. puzzling, 131. titular, 132. grovel, 133. mimic, 134. instance, 135. resonate, 136. squalid, 137. constantly, 138. typical, 139. brim, 140. scam

141. language ada_____on *n.* the action or process of changing to suit different conditions
142. media h__e *n.* advertisements and media discussions informing the public about a product and how nice or vital it is
143. so___d business *adj.* involving immoral or unethical actions; dirty or unpleasant; morally corrupt or depraved
144. the wo_____ew of the ancient civilization *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
145. pos_____ty for growth *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
146. ob_____ty of expression *n.* the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction
147. vassal ho___e *n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
148. sim_____sly affected *adv.* at the same time
149. pu_____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
150. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
151. full of w_t *n.* the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way
152. de___t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

ANSWERS: 141. adaptation, 142. hype, 143. sordid, 144. worldview, 145. possibility, 146. obscurity, 147. homage, 148. simultaneously, 149. puzzling, 150. pluck, 151. wit, 152. depict

153. st____ng innovation *adj.* attractive and distinctive enough to draw notice; exceedingly appealing, frequently in an odd manner
154. pr____l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
155. a divine rev____on *n.* a fact that has been disclosed to others, especially a surprising one; the act of revealing or telling the fact or truth to others; communication of knowledge to humans by a divine or supernatural agency
156. tw__t a wet towel *v.* to bend or turn something into a certain shape
157. 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
158. pre-mo____n agricultural society *adj.* of or belonging to the present time or recent times
159. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
160. take several inputs sim____sly *adv.* at the same time
161. bitter sp____er *n.* an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying
162. lonely sp____er *n.* an unmarried woman, especially an older woman who is considered past the age of marrying

ANSWERS: 153. striking, 154. propel, 155. revelation, 156. twist, 157. benefactor, 158. modern, 159. mimic, 160. simultaneously, 161. spinster, 162. spinster

163. vi___m support *n.* a person who has been harmed, injured, or otherwise negatively affected by a particular action, circumstance, or event
164. universal pr___e *n.* an expression that shows approval and admiration of the achievements or characteristics of someone or something
165. cr____al investigation *n.* a person who has committed a crime
166. p__t twist *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
167. re_____e a dispute *v.* to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
168. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
169. to a rec_____ble degree *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
170. vi_____t incident *adj.* involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something
171. b_b on the surface of the water *v.* to move up and down quickly and repeatedly, often in a short, jerky motion; to cut, trim, or shorten hair, especially by repeatedly snipping with scissors; (noun) a hairstyle in which the hair is cut short and even all around, usually above the shoulders
172. 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

ANSWERS: 163. victim, 164. praise, 165. criminal, 166. plot, 167. resolve, 168. speculate, 169. recognizable, 170. violent, 171. bob, 172. enigma

183. ab___d storyline *adj.* ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical
184. des_____ze the market *v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
185. s__m dwellers *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
186. 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
187. de___e a literary plot *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
188. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
189. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
190. ne_____te a settlement *v.* to have formal discussions with someone to reach an agreement
191. paying ho___e to tradition *n.* a show of respect or honor, often by performing an act of reverence or by paying tribute
192. in_____te details *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
193. re___e CO2 into the air *v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement

ANSWERS: 183. absurd, 184. destabilize, 185. slum, 186. enigma, 187. devise, 188. corruptible, 189. industrious, 190. negotiate, 191. homage, 192. intricate, 193. release

194. unsolved my____y *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
195. pr____l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
196. 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
197. 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
198. 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
199. a tr____on of a culture *n.* a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society
200. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
201. sp____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

ANSWERS: 194. mystery, 195. propel, 196. brim, 197. tattered, 198. downtrodden, 199. tradition, 200. quirk, 201. speculate

202. cr__l joke	<i>adj.</i> feeling or showing pleasure in causing pain or suffering to others
203. personal de___r	<i>n.</i> a person or entity that owes money or is in debt to another party; someone who is obligated to fulfill a financial obligation
204. de___e topic	<i>n.</i> a formal discussion or argument of opposing viewpoints, often to persuade others to adopt a specific position; a public discussion, often on an issue of current interest, in which participants offer opinions and differing perspectives
205. ne_____te the price of the house	<i>v.</i> to have formal discussions with someone to reach an agreement
206. di_____ar without a trace	<i>v.</i> to cease to exist or be visible
207. ad_____re film	<i>n.</i> a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous
208. des_____ze a good relationship	<i>v.</i> to cause something to become less stable or secure
209. prospects were bl__k	<i>adj.</i> unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
210. rec_____ble landmark	<i>adj.</i> easy to become aware of or identify
211. sa_____c humor	<i>adj.</i> relating to or characterized by satire, which is the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to expose or criticize human foolishness, vices, or shortcomings
212. suspenseful cli_____ger	<i>n.</i> a situation or ending in a story, movie, or TV show that is characterized by intense suspense or uncertainty, usually leaving the audience eager to find out the resolution or outcome in the next installment or episode

ANSWERS: 202. cruel, 203. debtor, 204. debate, 205. negotiate, 206. disappear, 207. adventure, 208. destabilize, 209. bleak, 210. recognizable, 211. satiric, 212. cliff-hanger

213. jo____l articles *n.* a newspaper or magazine specialized in a specific topic or profession
214. 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
215. ant_____ion of her arrival *n.* the action of expecting that something might happen in the future and perhaps doing something about it now
216. an_____us house *adj.* having no known name, identity, or known source
217. the in___t of a question *n.* a strong determination or attention to do or achieve something; (adjective) having a strong determination to do or achieve something
218. di_____ar after a week *v.* to cease to exist or be visible
219. a cr__l and unusual punishment *adj.* feeling or showing pleasure in causing pain or suffering to others
220. fr_____nt use *adj.* happening constantly
221. 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
222. some une_____ed events *adj.* not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen
223. cor_____le officials *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
224. ha__h climate *adj.* severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit

ANSWERS: 213. journal, 214. bumble, 215. anticipation, 216. anonymous, 217. intent, 218. disappear, 219. cruel, 220. frequent, 221. titular, 222. unexpected, 223. corruptible, 224. harsh

225. 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
226. pl__d for mercy *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
227. sink into ob_____ty *n.* the state of being hard to see or understand; lack of clarity or distinction
228. dep_____on of liberty *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
229. improve social mo_____ty *n.* the ability to move or be moved freely or easily from one place, job, or social class to another
230. gastronomic ad_____res *n.* a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous
231. fr_____nt absence *adj.* happening constantly
232. asylum for or____n children *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
233. pr____t a feeling of hunger *v.* to make someone decide to or try to do something, or to make something happen
234. for in_____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
235. 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

ANSWERS: 225. ensnare, 226. plead, 227. obscurity, 228. deprivation, 229. mobility, 230. adventure, 231. frequent, 232. orphan, 233. prompt, 234. instance, 235. starve

236. po____y feelings in words *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
237. a political rev_____on *n.* a large-scale attempt to overthrow the government of a country, often using violence or war;
238. st_____ng evidence *adj.* attractive and distinctive enough to draw notice; exceedingly appealing, frequently in an odd manner
239. 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
240. f__t accomplishment *n.* a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery
241. mu____r in the second degree *n.* the crime of killing somebody intentionally
242. wanted cr_____al *n.* a person who has committed a crime
243. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
244. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

ANSWERS: 236. portray, 237. revolution, 238. striking, 239. brood, 240. feat, 241. murder, 242. criminal, 243. trait, 244. pluck

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ figure in the corner of the room made me uneasy.
adj. dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
2. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
3. The mobile application industry is _____ changing.
adv. all the time
4. She explained the _____ surrounding the accident.
n. the specific conditions or events that surround a particular situation or occurrence
5. The protesters became _____ when the police tried to disperse them.
adj. involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something
6. 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)
7. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. shadowy, 2. speculated, 3. constantly, 4. circumstances, 5. violent, 6. orphanage, 7. portray, 8. obscurity

9. 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

10. His heartaches are less _____ now.

adj. happening constantly

11. Greed and _____ composed his personality.

n. a strong wish to do or achieve something

12. The former emperor had a particular _____ even after he abdicated.

n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself

13. 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

14. The diamond _____ in the sunlight.

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

15. The _____ over climate change continues to be a hot topic in politics.

n. a formal discussion or argument of opposing viewpoints, often to persuade others to adopt a specific position; a public discussion, often on an issue of current interest, in which participants offer opinions and differing perspectives

16. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.

n. a particular feature of your nature

ANSWERS: 9. satiric, 10. frequent, 11. ambition, 12. influence, 13. mimic, 14. sparkled, 15. debate, 16. traits

17. This accident _____ a dark shadow over their lives.
- v. to cause light or shadow to appear on a surface; to assign or choose someone such as an actor or representative, especially by selection process
18. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
- adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
19. 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
20. 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
21. It is an incredible _____ to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.
- n. a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery
22. 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
23. The audience was not duped by the media's _____ around the event.
- n. advertisements and media discussions informing the public about a product and how nice or vital it is
24. The designer's _____ was to create a minimalist aesthetic for the interior of the building.
- n. a strong determination or attention to do or achieve something; (adjective) having a strong determination to do or achieve something

ANSWERS: 17. cast, 18. industrious, 19. ensnare, 20. quirks, 21. feat, 22. worldviews, 23. hype, 24. intent

25. Two students answered the teacher's question _____.
- adv.* at the same time
26. 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
27. The extreme cold _____ our bones.
- v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
28. The physician is reading the _____ related to medicine
- n.* a newspaper or magazine specialized in a specific topic or profession
29. The automaker has been providing _____ car financing options since last year.
- adj.* not expensive and able to pay
30. This intriguing _____ mystery remains unsolved.
- n.* the crime of killing somebody intentionally
31. The prime minister faced _____ criticism.
- adj.* severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit
32. The drama series mainly received _____.
- n.* an expression that shows approval and admiration of the achievements or characteristics of someone or something

ANSWERS: 25. simultaneously, 26. downtrodden, 27. pierced, 28. journals, 29. affordable, 30. murder, 31. harsh, 32. praise

33. These articles cite five _____ of climate change.
n. a particular example or single occurrence of something
34. It is a _____ in many families to have a big Thanksgiving dinner with all their relatives.
n. a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society
35. 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
36. The dictator was known for his _____ and oppressive regime.
adj. feeling or showing pleasure in causing pain or suffering to others
37. 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
38. The little girl was a war _____ and lived in a group home.
n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
39. 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
40. She _____ the flowers off the bush.
v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

ANSWERS: 33. instances, 34. tradition, 35. devise, 36. cruel, 37. propel, 38. orphan, 39. spinster, 40. plucked

41. My memory will _____ but my heart will live on.
v. to vanish; to fade away; to lose color; to lose freshness
42. 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
43. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
44. 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
45. The movie ended with a thrilling _____ leaving the audience eagerly anticipating the sequel.
n. a situation or ending in a story, movie, or TV show that is characterized by intense suspense or uncertainty, usually leaving the audience eager to find out the resolution or outcome in the next installment or episode
46. 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
47. The phenomenon is _____ at optical wavelengths.
adj. impossible or nearly impossible to see

ANSWERS: 41. fade, 42. enigma, 43. resonates, 44. brooded, 45. cliff-hanger, 46. slums, 47. invisible

48. The _____ surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.
- n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
49. The political crisis _____ the country and caused widespread turmoil.
- v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
50. 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
51. The _____ credit score suffered due to missed payments.
- n.* a person or entity that owes money or is in debt to another party; someone who is obligated to fulfill a financial obligation
52. The animal rights group worked to _____ the dolphins back into the wild.
- v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement
53. The _____ attack left the victim with serious injuries.
- adj.* harsh or cruel
54. The result presented a _____ picture of inefficiency and corruption.
- adj.* looking or sounding very serious or gloomy
55. This artwork is _____ of her work.
- adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things

ANSWERS: 48. mystery, 49. destabilized, 50. panoramic, 51. debtor's, 52. release, 53. brutal, 54. grim, 55. typical

56. The lawyer's ____ for the case was \$10,000.

n. a sum of money charged for a particular service

57. Supporters in the stands _____ at every goal.

v. to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval

58. 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

59. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.

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

60. She waited in eager _____ for his arrival.

n. the action of expecting that something might happen in the future and perhaps doing something about it now

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

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

62. 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

63. The politician managed to deal with that _____ issue.

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

64. 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

ANSWERS: 56. fee, 57. cheered, 58. benefactor, 59. bleak, 60. anticipation, 61. recognizable, 62. homage, 63. intricate, 64. convicted

65. The government has ignored the _____ of the homeless population.
n. a difficult or unfortunate situation
66. I need to ____ my head to the beat of the music.
v. to move up and down quickly and repeatedly, often in a short, jerky motion; to cut, trim, or shorten hair, especially by repeatedly snipping with scissors; (noun) a hairstyle in which the hair is cut short and even all around, usually above the shoulders
67. Her research team made an important _____.
n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
68. 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
69. Truth is stranger than _____.
n. the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
70. The police are searching for the _____ who stole the jewels.
n. a person who has committed a crime
71. The president prepared several possible _____ for an enemy attack.
n. a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work
72. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

ANSWERS: 65. plight, 66. bob, 67. discovery, 68. bumble, 69. fiction, 70. criminal, 71. scenarios, 72. protagonist's

73. She received several _____ calls.

adj. having no known name, identity, or known source

74. 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

75. 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

76. The final _____ provides a summary of the discussion.

n. a separate section of a written work usually numbered and titled

77. 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

78. That bank employee prevented the older woman from falling for the _____.

n. a clever and dishonest, and often illegal, business scheme; a fraud

79. The two plays have many _____ parallels.

adj. attractive and distinctive enough to draw notice; exceedingly appealing, frequently in an odd manner

80. The _____ of getting the disease will drastically increase.

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

ANSWERS: 73. anonymous, 74. pleaded, 75. gruel, 76. chapter, 77. underworld, 78. scam, 79. striking, 80. possibility

81. That incident _____ a nationwide chain reaction regarding the crackdown on illegal groups.
- v.* to make someone decide to or try to do something, or to make something happen
82. The _____ "red" describes the color of the apple.
- n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
83. It is a basic instinct to _____ from a dangerous situation.
- v.* to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
84. 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
85. He was such a _____ that he wouldn't even spend money on coffee.
- n.* a person who hoards wealth and lives frugally
86. I have limited _____ in my arms.
- n.* the ability to move or be moved freely or easily from one place, job, or social class to another
87. 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
88. The company's _____ approach has been highly effective.
- n.* the action or process of changing to suit different conditions

ANSWERS: 81. prompted, 82. adjective, 83. flee, 84. brim, 85. miser, 86. mobility, 87. grovel, 88. adaptation

89. We are always happy to _____ a discount.
v. to have formal discussions with someone to reach an agreement
90. 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
91. _____ design has become more focused on human nature aspect than ever before.
adj. of or relating to or resulting from industry
92. 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
93. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
94. They watched the train _____ into the distance.
v. to cease to exist or be visible
95. Their headquarters are in a _____ skyscraper.
adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times
96. Other technology industries _____ similarly explosive growth.
v. to show something in public for people to enjoy or to provide them with information

ANSWERS: 89. negotiate, 90. tattered, 91. Industrial, 92. schoolmaster's, 93. depicted, 94. disappear, 95. modern, 96. exhibit

97. The _____ of the crime deserves justice and support to recover from the trauma.
- n.* a person who has been harmed, injured, or otherwise negatively affected by a particular action, circumstance, or event
98. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
- adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
99. He sailed the Atlantic Ocean multiple times during his _____.
- n.* a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous
100. 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
101. The shocking _____ embarrassed the administration.
- n.* a fact that has been disclosed to others, especially a surprising one; the act of revealing or telling the fact or truth to others; communication of knowledge to humans by a divine or supernatural agency
102. The _____ rainstorm caused the collapse of the corral.
- adj.* not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen
103. The company's financial records _____ how successful it has been.
- v.* to provide pictures, photographs, diagrams, etc. in a book or something for explanation

ANSWERS: 97. victim, 98. puzzling, 99. adventures, 100. titular, 101. revelation, 102. unexpected, 103. illustrate

104. The _____ living conditions were a breeding ground for disease.
adj. dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of neglect or poverty
105. He has the ____ to keep talking about this topic.
n. the ability to say or write things or ideas in a clever and humorous way
106. He _____ pieces of rope out of straw.
v. to bend or turn something into a certain shape
107. He threw away the _____ items in his closet.
adj. not wanted or desired
108. We immediately rejected his _____ suggestion.
adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical
109. The lush green forest provided a picturesque _____ for the photo shoot.
n. a painted or photographed scene or setting that is used as a background for a stage, film, or other performance
110. This company _____ its battery problem completely.
v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
111. 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
112. Our farm experienced a _____ of locusts this year.
n. any epidemic disease with a high death rate; (also called pest) a serious, sometimes fatal, infection spread by rats that causes fever and swellings on the body

ANSWERS: 104. squalid, 105. wit, 106. twisted, 107. unwanted, 108. absurd, 109. backdrop, 110. resolves, 111. starve, 112. plague

113. 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

114. The _____ has largely gotten positive feedback.

- n.* an extended fictional work in prose; usually in the form of a story; (adjective) original and of a kind not seen before

115. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.

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

116. The company is launching a new line of _____ products aimed at young adults.

- adj.* consisting of or occurring in a series or sequence; relating to or involving a series or sequence of events, stories, or incidents

117. The _____ by the citizen resulted in a redistribution of wealth.

- n.* a large-scale attempt to overthrow the government of a country, often using violence or war;

118. This laptop has a _____ processor, making it fast and efficient.

- adj.* having two parts, aspects, or elements

119. 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

120. The salespeople speak in technical terms to _____ that they are more knowledgeable than the customer.

- v.* to indicate the truth or existence of something without referring to it

ANSWERS: 113. deprivation, 114. novel, 115. corruptible, 116. serial, 117. revolution, 118. dual-core, 119. incubator, 120. imply

121. 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

122. The ____ of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

ANSWERS: 121. sordid, 122. plot