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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Anne Madden: Meet the microscopic life in your home -- and on your face | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

squishy

adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed

synonym: soft, spongy, mushy

(1) **squishy** texture, (2) a **squishy** story

The **squishy** foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.

microscopic

adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

synonym: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym: mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

mildew

n. a thin, white, or grayish fungus, typically appearing on organic matter or plants that are damp or in a warm place

synonym : mold, fungus, rot

(1) powdery **mildew**, (2) remove **mildew** stains

The bathroom walls were covered in **mildew** from the dampness.

munch

v. to chew or eat something noisily, often with the sound of crunching or crunching

synonym : chew, nibble, gnaw

(1) **munch** on an apple, (2) **munch** away on crisps

I love to **munch** on popcorn while I watch a movie.

feces

n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement

synonym : poop, stool, excrement

(1) **feces** sample, (2) human **feces**

Proper disposal of **feces** is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

mite

n. a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals

synonym : speck, insect

(1) house dust **mite**, (2) a **mite** of evidence

The **mite** infestation in the old house was a serious problem for the residents.

squirm

v. to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness

synonym : squiggle, wiggle, writhe

(1) **squirm** uncomfortably, (2) **squirm** with excitement

The child **squirmed** out of his mother's grasp and ran off.

bleach

v. to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as

bleach

synonym : whiten, lighten, blanch

(1) **bleach** stains, (2) **bleach** hair

I need to **bleach** this shirt to remove the stains.

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym : opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

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.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym : destroy, eliminate, exterminate

(1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination

We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.

exterminate

v. to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds

synonym : eradicate, eliminate, wipe out

(1) **exterminate** pests, (2) **exterminate** communism

The government **exterminated** the invasive species to protect native plants and animals.

disinfect

v. to clean something using chemicals or other materials that kill germs or bacteria, making it safe and free from harmful microorganisms

synonym : cleanse, sanitize, sterilize

(1) **disinfect** a wound, (2) **disinfect** the kitchen

It is important to **disinfect** surfaces regularly to prevent the spread of germs.

microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

synonym: germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

Microbes thrive on the surface of the human skin.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

microorganism

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microorganism**, (2) **microorganisms** in his gut

This **microorganism** is a producer of respiratory disease.

tweeze

v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

synonym: pluck, pull out, extract

(1) **tweeze** unwanted hair, (2) **tweeze** hairs

She carefully **tweezed** the stray eyebrow hairs.

cockroach

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym: roach

(1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

cling

v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

synonym : stick, adhere, attach

(1) **cling** onto power, (2) **cling** tightly to the skin

He **clings** to the hope that he will find a job soon.

wasp

n. a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

synonym : insect, hornet, yellow jacket

(1) **wasp** nest, (2) **wasp** sting

A giant **wasp** flew into the room, and everyone panicked.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym : open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

petri

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

(1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes

Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

cosmos

n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

synonym : universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**

Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

fluffy

adj. soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur

synonym : soft, feathery, puffy

(1) **fluffy** clouds, (2) **fluffy** blanket

The kitten had **fluffy** fur that was soft to the touch.

dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym: reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

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

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

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym: struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

alchemy

n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

synonym: sorcery, magic, transmutation

(1) **alchemy** experiment, (2) **alchemy** of emotions

Today, the study of **alchemy** remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

arsenal

n. a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

synonym: storage, stockpile, armory

(1) **arsenal** of knowledge, (2) political **arsenal**

The police found a hidden **arsenal** of weapons in the suspect's house.

nugget

n. a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food

synonym: chunk, clod, clump

(1) a gold **nugget**, (2) **nugget** of truth

It took a few weeks to extract the **nugget** of information from those complicated sources.

inedible

adj. not suitable or safe to be eaten; not fit for consumption due to being unappetizing, toxic, or harmful

synonym: inedible, inedacious, unpalatable

(1) **inedible** plant, (2) **inedible** food

Her attempt at baking resulted in an **inedible** batch of cookies, much to everyone's disappointment.

nutritive

adj. providing nourishment or nutrition; having the quality or ability to nourish or enhance physical well-being

synonym: nourishing, alimentary, nutritional

(1) **nutritive** content, (2) **nutritive** food

The fruit contains high levels of **nutritive** vitamins and minerals.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym: ordinary, everyday, prosaic

(1) **mundane** affairs, (2) **mundane** objects

After returning from the war, he had a pretty **mundane** life.

bland

adj. lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

synonym: boring, insipid, flavorless

(1) make a **bland** reply, (2) **bland** novel

The dinner was rather **bland** and in need of some seasoning.

monumental

adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

synonym: massive, awesome, enormous

(1) **monumental** task, (2) **monumental** sculpture

Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's **monumental** contributions to physics.

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.

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.

tart

n. a small pastry with a sweet or savory filling, typically with a shortcrust pastry base; a woman who is perceived to be sexually promiscuous; (adjective) sharp, tangy, or acidic in taste

synonym: pie, pastry, quiche

(1) **tart** flavor, (2) custard **tart**

The lemon **tart** at the bakery was simply divine.

superbug

n. a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications

synonym: super bacteria, antibiotic-resistant bacteria

(1) **superbug** outbreak, (2) **superbug** infection

The hospital is battling a **superbug** that is resistant to antibiotics.

scum

n. a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe

undesirable people or groups

synonym : dregs, slime, filth

(1) bathtub **scum**, (2) **scum** of the earth

The **scum** on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.

dung

n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

synonym : excrement, droppings, manure

(1) ball of **dung**, (2) **dung** the land

You can see the horse **dung** on the country road.

unremarkable

adj. ordinary and not particularly interesting

synonym : commonplace, unmemorable, mundane

(1) completely ordinary and **unremarkable**,

(2) **unremarkable** in looks

He was very busy at work but otherwise led an **unremarkable** life.

vaccinate

v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

synonym : immunize, inject, inoculate

(1) **vaccinate** against scarlet fever, (2) **vaccinate** every year

The nurse **vaccinated** the children in the school.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de___e a literary plot
v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
2. powdery mi___w
n. a thin, white, or grayish fungus, typically appearing on organic matter or plants that are damp or in a warm place
3. er_____te the deficit
v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
4. mon_____al sculpture
adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
5. in_____le food
adj. not suitable or safe to be eaten; not fit for consumption due to being unappetizing, toxic, or harmful
6. fl___y blanket
adj. soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
7. mic_____ic inquiry
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
8. political ad_____ry
n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
9. in_____le plant
adj. not suitable or safe to be eaten; not fit for consumption due to being unappetizing, toxic, or harmful
10. mu__h on an apple
v. to chew or eat something noisily, often with the sound of crunching or crunching

ANSWERS: 1. devise, 2. mildew, 3. eradicate, 4. monumental, 5. inedible, 6. fluffy, 7. microscopic, 8. adversary, 9. inedible, 10. munch

11. co_____ch killer *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
12. un_____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
13. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
14. di_____ct a wound *v.* to clean something using chemicals or other materials that kill germs or bacteria, making it safe and free from harmful microorganisms
15. make a bl__d reply *adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
16. sq___m uncomfortably *v.* to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness
17. ext_____te communism *v.* to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds
18. pe__i dish test *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
19. t__l up the mountain *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
20. house dust m__e *n.* a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals

ANSWERS: 11. cockroach, 12. uncover, 13. pluck, 14. disinfect, 15. bland, 16. squirm, 17. exterminate, 18. petri, 19. toil, 20. mite

21. va_____te every year
v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease
22. chemical tr__t
n. a particular feature of your nature
23. s__m of the earth
n. a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
24. human fe__s
n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
25. fe__s sample
n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
26. completely ordinary and unr_____ble
adj. ordinary and not particularly interesting
27. t__l to make a living
v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
28. un_____r a potential problem
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
29. origin of the co___s
n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
30. have a co_____ch phobia
n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
31. al_____y of emotions
n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

ANSWERS: 21. vaccinate, 22. trait, 23. scum, 24. feces, 25. feces, 26. unremarkable, 27. toil, 28. uncover, 29. cosmos, 30. cockroach, 31. alchemy

32. mic_____isms in his gut *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
33. exploration of co____s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
34. al_____y experiment *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
35. nu_____ve food *adj.* providing nourishment or nutrition; having the quality or ability to nourish or enhance physical well-being
36. fu____s infection *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
37. bl____h hair *v.* to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach
38. de____e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
39. mu_____e objects *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

ANSWERS: 32. microorganism, 33. cosmos, 34. alchemy, 35. nutritive, 36. fungus, 37. bleach, 38. devise, 39. mundane

40. ad_____ry team *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
41. bl____h stains *v.* to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach
42. di_____ct the kitchen *v.* to clean something using chemicals or other materials that kill germs or bacteria, making it safe and free from harmful microorganisms
43. a m__e of evidence *n.* a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals
44. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
45. bathtub s__m *n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
46. d__g the land *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
47. un____d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
48. political ar_____l *n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

ANSWERS: 40. adversary, 41. bleach, 42. disinfect, 43. mite, 44. dinosaur, 45. scum, 46. dung, 47. unfold, 48. arsenal

49. w__p nest *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
50. a gold nu___t *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
51. ball of d__g *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
52. a sq____y story *adj.* soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed
53. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
54. er_____te racial discrimination *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
55. su____ug outbreak *n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications
56. t__t flavor *n.* a small pastry with a sweet or savory filling, typically with a shortcrust pastry base; a woman who is perceived to be sexually promiscuous; (adjective) sharp, tangy, or acidic in taste
57. w__p sting *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

ANSWERS: 49. wasp, 50. nugget, 51. dung, 52. squishy, 53. trait, 54. eradicate, 55. superbug, 56. tart, 57. wasp

58. nu___t of truth *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
59. mu__h away on crisps *v.* to chew or eat something noisily, often with the sound of crunching or crunching
60. sq___m with excitement *v.* to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness
61. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
62. ar_____l of knowledge *n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor
63. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
64. fl___y clouds *adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
65. cl__g onto power *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
66. su_____ug infection *n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications

ANSWERS: 58. nugget, 59. munch, 60. squirm, 61. excite, 62. arsenal, 63. microscopic, 64. fluffy, 65. cling, 66. superbug

67. remove mi___w stains *n.* a thin, white, or grayish fungus, typically appearing on organic matter or plants that are damp or in a warm place
68. nu_____ve content *adj.* providing nourishment or nutrition; having the quality or ability to nourish or enhance physical well-being
69. cl__g tightly to the skin *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
70. pathogenic mi_____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
71. mi_____es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
72. unr_____ble in looks *adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
73. bacteria on pe__i dishes *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
74. mu_____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
75. ext_____te pests *v.* to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds
76. pathogenic mic_____ism *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
77. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

ANSWERS: 67. mildew, 68. nutritive, 69. cling, 70. microbe, 71. microbe, 72. unremarkable, 73. petri, 74. mundane, 75. exterminate, 76. microorganism, 77. pluck

78. va_____te against scarlet fever *v.* to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease
79. tw___e hairs *v.* to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
80. un___d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
81. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
82. tw___e unwanted hair *v.* to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
83. hulking di_____ur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
84. custard t__t *n.* a small pastry with a sweet or savory filling, typically with a shortcrust pastry base; a woman who is perceived to be sexually promiscuous; (adjective) sharp, tangy, or acidic in taste
85. bl__d novel *adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

ANSWERS: 78. vaccinate, 79. tweeze, 80. unfold, 81. excite, 82. tweeze, 83. dinosaur, 84. tart, 85. bland

86. sq____y texture

adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed

87. mon_____al task

adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

88. symbiotic fu____s

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

ANSWERS: 86. squishy, 87. monumental, 88. fungus

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature
2. The fruit contains high levels of _____ vitamins and minerals.
adj. providing nourishment or nutrition; having the quality or ability to nourish or enhance physical well-being
3. The _____ foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.
adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed
4. This _____ is a producer of respiratory disease.
n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
5. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
6. The kitten had _____ fur that was soft to the touch.
adj. soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
7. Her attempt at baking resulted in an _____ batch of cookies, much to everyone's disappointment.
adj. not suitable or safe to be eaten; not fit for consumption due to being unappetizing, toxic, or harmful

ANSWERS: 1. traits, 2. nutritive, 3. squishy, 4. microorganism, 5. dinosaur, 6. fluffy, 7. inedible

8. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
- v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
9. The nurse _____ the children in the school.
- v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease
10. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
- v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
11. We are trying to _____ this disease from the world.
- v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
12. She carefully _____ the stray eyebrow hairs.
- v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
13. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.
- n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
14. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
- adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
15. I need to _____ this shirt to remove the stains.
- v. to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach

ANSWERS: 8. toiled, 9. vaccinated, 10. unfolded, 11. eradicate, 12. tweezed, 13. adversary, 14. microscopic, 15. bleach

16. She _____ the flowers off the bush.

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

17. You can see the horse _____ on the country road.

- n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

18. He _____ to the hope that he will find a job soon.

- v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

19. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.

- v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

20. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

- n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

21. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

- n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

22. The police found a hidden _____ of weapons in the suspect's house.

- n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

23. Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's _____ contributions to physics.

- adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

ANSWERS: 16. plucked, 17. dung, 18. clings, 19. uncovered, 20. fungus, 21. Cockroaches, 22. arsenal, 23. monumental

24. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the _____.
- n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
25. It is important to _____ surfaces regularly to prevent the spread of germs.
- v.* to clean something using chemicals or other materials that kill germs or bacteria, making it safe and free from harmful microorganisms
26. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
27. 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
28. He was very busy at work but otherwise led an _____ life.
- adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
29. Glass _____ dishes are used to culture microorganisms.
- n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
30. The hospital is battling a _____ that is resistant to antibiotics.
- n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications
31. The child _____ out of his mother's grasp and ran off.
- v.* to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness

ANSWERS: 24. cosmos, 25. disinfect, 26. excited, 27. devise, 28. unremarkable, 29. petri, 30. superbug, 31. squirmed

32. A giant _____ flew into the room, and everyone panicked.
- n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
33. It took a few weeks to extract the _____ of information from those complicated sources.
- n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
34. The _____ on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.
- n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
35. The government _____ the invasive species to protect native plants and animals.
- v.* to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds
36. The lemon _____ at the bakery was simply divine.
- n.* a small pastry with a sweet or savory filling, typically with a shortcrust pastry base; a woman who is perceived to be sexually promiscuous; (adjective) sharp, tangy, or acidic in taste
37. The _____ infestation in the old house was a serious problem for the residents.
- n.* a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals
38. The bathroom walls were covered in _____ from the dampness.
- n.* a thin, white, or grayish fungus, typically appearing on organic matter or plants that are damp or in a warm place

ANSWERS: 32. wasp, 33. nugget, 34. scum, 35. exterminated, 36. tart, 37. mite, 38. mildew

39. The dinner was rather _____ and in need of some seasoning.

adj. lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

40. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

41. Today, the study of _____ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

42. _____ thrive on the surface of the human skin.

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

43. I love to _____ on popcorn while I watch a movie.

v. to chew or eat something noisily, often with the sound of crunching or crunching

44. Proper disposal of _____ is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement

ANSWERS: 39. bland, 40. mundane, 41. alchemy, 42. Microbes, 43. munch, 44. feces