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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Elizabeth Lev: The unheard story of the Sistine Chapel | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fresco

n. a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image

synonym : mural, painting, wall art

(1) medieval **fresco**, (2) **fresco** secco

The **fresco** paintings in the church were over 500 years old.

soar

v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

synonym : fly, rise, ascend

(1) **soar** in popularity, (2) **soar** to new heights

The bird **soared** through the sky, and its wings spread wide.

tapestry

n. a piece of fabric or cloth that is woven with intricate designs or scenes, often depicting historical or mythological events; a complex or intricate story, idea, or situation

synonym : embroidery, hanging, cloth

(1) colorful **tapestry**, (2) intricate **tapestry** design

The **tapestry** on the wall depicted a medieval battle scene.

encompass

v. to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely

synonym :

surround, encircle, include

(1) **encompass** a broad range, (2) **encompass** the enemy
The optimal solution that would **encompass** all these elements has yet to be proposed.

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.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym: Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

ecclesiastical

adj. relating to the Christian Church, its hierarchy, or its clergy; pertaining to religious matters or the practice of organized religion

synonym: religious, churchly, sacred

(1) **ecclesiastical** authority, (2) **ecclesiastical** architecture

The grand cathedral stood as a symbol of **ecclesiastical** power and influence.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym: condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

ignite

v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning

synonym : light, set fire to, ignite

(1) **ignite** a boom, (2) **ignite** passion

He **ignited** the fireworks with a single spark.

geopolitical

adj. of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

(1) the **geopolitical** situations, (2) reduce **geopolitical** risk

The country holds dominant **geopolitical** power over its neighbors.

parochial

adj. related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

synonym : narrow-minded, insular, provincial

(1) **parochial** views, (2) **parochial** community

The **parochial** attitude of the small town made it difficult for outsiders to feel welcome.

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**.

Jewish

adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

synonym : Judaic

(1) **Jewish** history, (2) **Jewish** culture

My friend is a **Jewish** woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

papal

adj. relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church

synonym : pontifical, papistic, apostolical

(1) **papal** authority, (2) **papal** visit

The **papal** palace was a grand and imposing structure.

frieze

n. a decorative band or strip that is placed horizontally on a wall, often just below the ceiling or the cornice

synonym : molding, decoration, embellishment

(1) the **frieze** on the fireplace, (2) decorative **frieze**

The **frieze** on the temple depicted scenes from mythology.

faraway

adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

synonym : distant, remote, far-off

(1) **faraway** land, (2) **faraway** dream

The view from the **faraway** hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.

microcosm

n. a miniature or small-scale version of something that represents the larger whole or system; a representation of society or culture on a smaller scale

synonym : miniature, tiny world, little universe

(1) soil **microcosm**, (2) environmental **microcosm**

The small town felt like a **microcosm** of the larger society.

visionary

adj. having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative

synonym : prophetic, far-sighted, imaginative

(1) **visionary** business, (2) **visionary** ideas

The **visionary** leader had a clear plan for the company's future.

decorate

v. to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc

synonym : adorn, embellish, beautify

(1) **decorate** a wall, (2) **decorate** for Christmas

They **decorated** the room with balloons and streamers for the birthday party.

patron

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

synonym: contributor, sponsor, supporter

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

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

lure

v. to tempt or persuade someone to do something

synonym: tempt, entice, attract

(1) **lure** prey, (2) **lure** foreign investment

The salesperson used a special offer to **lure** customers into buying the product.

sculptural

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

synonym: sculpted, carved, modeled

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

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

apostle

n. one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings

synonym: messenger, envoy, delegate

(1) **Apostle** Paul, (2) an **apostle** of revolution

The twelve **apostles** were Jesus' closest followers and were chosen to spread his teachings.

genesis

n. the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

synonym: beginning, creation, provenance

(1) the **genesis** of civilization, (2) in the Book of **Genesis**

The politician's remarks became the **genesis** of the clash

between the two countries.

chisel

n. a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior

synonym : gouge, bevel, plane

(1) sharpen **chisel**, (2) **chisel** some money

The archaeologist used a small **chisel** to excavate the ancient artifact.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

brazen

adj. bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)

synonym : audacious, bold, impudent

(1) **brazen** lie, (2) **brazen** painted faces

The **brazen** thief stole the diamond right out of the display case.

nephew

n. a son of your brother or sister

(1) three-year-old **nephew**, (2) nieces and **nephews**

My **nephew** is eight months old and still being breastfed.

moniker

n. a name or nickname, especially one that is unconventional or adopted rather than given

synonym : name, nickname, alias

(1) royal **moniker**, (2) commonly used **moniker**

The **moniker** of The King of Pop will forever be associated with Michael Jackson.

fortress

n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

synonym : castle, citadel, stronghold

(1) **fortress** wall, (2) military **fortress**

The ancient **fortress** was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.

artillery

n. large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces

synonym : guns, cannons, ordnance

(1) **artillery** fire, (2) coastal **artillery**

The army brought in heavier **artillery** to break through the enemy defenses.

basilica

n. a large and important church, typically one with a nave, aisles, and a raised platform at one or both ends, and often a higher central area

(1) Saint Peter's **Basilica**, (2) ancient Roman **basilicas**

The **basilica's** architecture was characterized by a long central nave, with aisles on either side and a large apse at one end, often used as a sanctuary.

decidedly

adv. in a manner that is beyond doubt or question; in a way that is clear and unmistakable; in an emphatic or determined manner

synonym : definitely, absolutely, positively

(1) **decidedly** unfriendly, (2) **decidedly** different

She was **decidedly** unimpressed with his latest attempt at a joke.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym : anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

grandeur

n. the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring

synonym : splendor, majesty, greatness

(1) natural **grandeur**, (2) lost in **grandeur**

The castle's **grandeur** was breathtaking, with its towering turrets and sweeping arches.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym : narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

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.

primal

adj. of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

synonym : original, fundamental, basic

(1) **primal** eras, (2) **primal** fear

The **primal** instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

churning

n. the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy

synonym : agitation, turmoil, commotion

(1) butter **churning**, (2) **churning** emotions

The **churning** of the waves on the beach made it difficult to

swim.

blur *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym : smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

loom *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym : appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

hurtle *v.* to move quickly and forcefully, especially in an uncontrolled or dangerous way

synonym : throw, hurl, fling

(1) **hurtle** into a tunnel, (2) **hurtle** through life

The car **hurtled** down the highway at breakneck speed.

caesura *n.* a pause or break in a line of poetry, music, or speech, usually marked by punctuation or a natural pause in the rhythm; a momentary interruption or cessation

synonym : pause, break, interruption

(1) **caesura** in poetry, (2) create a **caesura** effect

The song had a melodic **caesura** that added a sense of drama to the lyrics.

hover *v.* to stay in one place in the air

synonym : hang, float over, drift

(1) **hover** between life and death, (2) **hover** around the table

Two birds were **hovering** overhead.

handicraft

n. a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving

synonym : craft, handmade, artisanry

(1) **handicraft** workshop, (2) traditional **handicrafts**

She spent her free time making **handicrafts** like pottery and crocheting to sell at the local market.

proclaim

v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

synonym : announce, declare, trumpet

(1) **proclaim** victory, (2) **proclaim** law

The leader **proclaimed** a state of emergency in the country.

culmination

n. the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time

synonym : climax, completion, ending

(1) the **culmination** of her ambition, (2) **culmination** altitude

Their achievements stand as a **culmination** of centuries of development.

languid

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

synonym : lazy, lackadaisical, slow

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

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

impel

v. to drive, motivate, or urge someone to take action; to propel or provide a strong force to move something in a specific direction

synonym : drive, compel, urge

(1) **impel** action, (2) **impel** him to take on an extra job

His passion for social justice **impelled** him to join the protest march.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym : consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

pinnacle

n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

synonym : summit, peak, apex

(1) architectural **pinnacle**, (2) reached the **pinnacle**

Climbing to the **pinnacle** of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.

curveball

n. a pitch in baseball that breaks unexpectedly; a surprising or unexpected twist or turn in a situation

synonym : surprise, twist, deviation

(1) life's little **curveball**, (2) **curveball** situation

The pitcher threw a sharp **curveball** that the batter was not expecting.

afterthought

n. a thought or idea that comes to mind after the fact, often too late to be of much use; something that is added or considered belatedly, especially in speech or writing

synonym : reconsideration, second thought, reconsideration

(1) **afterthought** comment, (2) an **afterthought** decision

Forgetting to mention our meeting was just an **afterthought** for him.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym : bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

junction

n. a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam

synonym: turning point, crossroads, crisis

(1) the **junction** of Eastern and Western cultures,

(2) decisive **junction**

At this **junction** in the project, we must reassess our plans and make some changes.

sanctum

n. a private or sacred place, often a quiet and secure retreat where one can relax, think, or meditate

synonym: shrine, temple, holy place

(1) secret **sanctum**, (2) spiritual **sanctum**

The yoga studio offered a peaceful **sanctum** where customers could escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.

ark

n. (in the Bible) a boat built by Noah to save his family and animals from the flood; a large, flat-bottomed boat with a pointed bow and stern, used in ancient times to transport people and goods

synonym: boat, vessel, ship

(1) start building an **ark**, (2) **ark** of salvation

According to the story, Noah and his family were the only flood survivors, as they were on the **ark**.

savior

n. a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

synonym: hero, rescuer, redeemer

(1) political **savior**, (2) pray to the **savior**

The guru of that religion thought of himself as a **savior**.

dispel

v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

synonym: chase away, allay, disperse

(1) **dispel** a painful feeling, (2) **dispel** baseless rumors

This program aims to **dispel** certain misconceptions about

the disease.

gloom

n. a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty

synonym: darkness, depression, melancholy

(1) a sense of **gloom**, (2) **gloom-filled** room

The **gloom** of the rainy weather was beginning to affect her mood.

emerald

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

synonym: green, verdant, jade

(1) an **emerald** gem, (2) **emerald** ring

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

topaz

n. a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance

(1) **topaz** jewelry, (2) pink **topaz**

She wore a stunning necklace adorned with a large **topaz** gemstone.

scarlet

n. a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red

synonym: crimson, ruby, vermilion

(1) **scarlet** petals, (2) **scarlet** lipstick

She wore a **scarlet** dress to the party, making her stand out in the crowd.

foresee

v. to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future

synonym: predict, anticipate, forecast

(1) **foresee** the consequences, (2) **foresee** challenges

I **foresee** a problem arising if we don't address this issue now.

sibyl

n. a prophetess or seer in ancient Greek or Roman mythology, often associated with being able to deliver divine messages or predictions; a woman who is regarded as being wise, insightful, or having expert knowledge in a particular field

synonym: prophetess, oracle, fortune teller

(1) mythical **sibyl**, (2) ancient **sibyl**

The **sibyl's** prophecies were sought out by kings and rulers from all over the land.

heroine

n. a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film

synonym: protagonist

(1) medieval **heroine**, (2) tragic **heroine**

The brave **heroine** rescued the prince from the dragon's lair.

keystone

n. the central stone at the top of an arch, which holds all other stones in place

synonym: linchpin, mainstay, cornerstone

(1) **keystone** for success, (2) the **keystone** of campaign reform

The **keystone** of the arch held the structure together.

encroach

v. to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.

synonym: invade, impinge, infringe

(1) **encroach** on the realm, (2) **encroach** on the habitat of the animal

You have no right to **encroach** on my leisure time.

yawn

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

synonym: gape, stretch, open

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

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

splinter

n. a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger

synonym: shard, fragment, sliver

(1) **splinter** cell, (2) remove a **splinter**

The car window shattered into a million little **splinters** during the crash.

vignette

n. a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration

synonym: sketch, drawing, illustration

(1) poignant **vignette**, (2) **vignette** from the incident

The novel has a series of **vignettes** that showcase the everyday struggles of its characters.

adversity

n. difficulties or hardships that someone faces

synonym: hardship, difficulty, trial

(1) environmental **adversity**, (2) struggling with **adversity**

The team demonstrated great resilience in the face of **adversity** and won the game.

preside

v. to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization

synonym: chair, lead, control

(1) **preside** at the piano, (2) **preside** over ceremony

The **president** will preside over the meeting tomorrow.

setback

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

synonym: obstacle, hindrance, difficulty

(1) major **setback**, (2) suffer a **setback**

The team experienced a **setback** when their star player was injured during the game.

stew

n. a dish consisting of meat and vegetables simmered in liquid typically served hot as a main course or soup; a state of mental or emotional agitation or confusion

synonym: casserole, hotpot

(1) **stew** meat, (2) vegetable **stew**

I made a delicious beef **stew** for dinner tonight.

fortitude

n. mental or emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, or danger; the ability to endure hardship or pain with courage and resilience

synonym: courage, bravery, endurance

(1) **fortitude** in adversity, (2) mental **fortitude**

She showed great **fortitude** in facing her illness with grace and strength.

mastery

n. complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity

synonym: proficiency, aptitude, domination

(1) **mastery** of mathematics, (2) strive for **mastery**

The country finally gained **mastery** over the whole land of its neighbors.

courtier

n. a person who is a member of a royal court, particularly one who has a close and influential role in the court's affairs; a person who seeks favor or recognition from those in positions of authority or power

synonym: court attendant, noble, attendant

(1) the queen's **courtiers**, (2) flattering **courtier**

The **courtier's** job was to advise the king on politics and diplomacy.

husk

n. the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel

synonym : shell, covering, outer layer

(1) **husk** removal, (2) seed **husk**

The **husk** of the coconut was removed to reveal the fruit inside.

martyr

n. a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs

synonym : sufferer, saint

(1) X-ray **martyrs**, (2) a Christian **martyr**

He died a **martyr** to science.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym : divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

exhortation

n. a strong and passionate urging or encouragement to take a specific action or to adopt a particular behavior or attitude

synonym : admonition, urging, counsel

(1) **exhortation** to succeed, (2) political **exhortation**

His powerful **exhortation** motivated the team to give their best performance in the championship.

uplift

n. the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

synonym : upthrust, upheaval, (verb) raise

(1) **uplift** mountains, (2) **uplift** my spirit

The **uplift** in the stock market has been a relief to investors.

insistence

n. the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence

synonym : persistence, determination, demand

(1) collective **insistence**, (2) rigid **insistence**

Despite her **insistence**, he refused to change his mind.

deface

v. to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it

synonym: disfigure, blemish, wreck

(1) **deface** private property, (2) **deface** the wall with graffiti

The teacher warned the boys not to **deface** public property.

plaster

n. a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements

synonym: cement, adhesive, mortar

(1) daub the ceiling with **plaster**, (2) cracks in the **plaster**

Patience is the **plaster** of all sores.

Session 2: Spelling

1. Saint Peter's Ba_____ca *n.* a large and important church, typically one with a nave, aisles, and a raised platform at one or both ends, and often a higher central area
2. the cul_____on of her ambition *n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
3. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
4. aft_____ght comment *n.* a thought or idea that comes to mind after the fact, often too late to be of much use; something that is added or considered belatedly, especially in speech or writing
5. natural gr_____ur *n.* the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring
6. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
7. de_____ly unfriendly *adv.* in a manner that is beyond doubt or question; in a way that is clear and unmistakable; in an emphatic or determined manner
8. b__r image *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

ANSWERS: 1. basilica, 2. culmination, 3. sham, 4. afterthought, 5. grandeur, 6. storytelling, 7. decidedly, 8. blur

9. ecc_____cal architecture *adj.* relating to the Christian Church, its hierarchy, or its clergy; pertaining to religious matters or the practice of organized religion
10. suffer a se_____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
11. ecc_____cal authority *adj.* relating to the Christian Church, its hierarchy, or its clergy; pertaining to religious matters or the practice of organized religion
12. tragic he_____e *n.* a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film
13. soil mi_____sm *n.* a miniature or small-scale version of something that represents the larger whole or system; a representation of society or culture on a smaller scale
14. ancient Roman ba_____cas *n.* a large and important church, typically one with a nave, aisles, and a raised platform at one or both ends, and often a higher central area
15. create a ca_____a effect *n.* a pause or break in a line of poetry, music, or speech, usually marked by punctuation or a natural pause in the rhythm; a momentary interruption or cessation
16. the ju_____re of Eastern and Western cultures *n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam

ANSWERS: 9. ecclesiastical, 10. setback, 11. ecclesiastical, 12. heroine, 13. microcosm, 14. basilica, 15. caesura, 16. juncture

17. co___r degree v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
18. fo_____e challenges v. to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future
19. three-year-old ne___w n. a son of your brother or sister
20. im__l him to take on an extra job v. to drive, motivate, or urge someone to take action; to propel or provide a strong force to move something in a specific direction
21. turn out to be all s__m n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
22. de_____te a wall v. to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc
23. pa__l authority adj. relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church
24. life's little cu_____ll n. a pitch in baseball that breaks unexpectedly; a surprising or unexpected twist or turn in a situation
25. di___l baseless rumors v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea
26. l__e prey v. to tempt or persuade someone to do something
27. l__e foreign investment v. to tempt or persuade someone to do something

ANSWERS: 17. confer, 18. foresee, 19. nephew, 20. impel, 21. sham, 22. decorate, 23. papal, 24. curveball, 25. dispel, 26. lure, 27. lure

28. spiritual sa____m *n.* a private or sacred place, often a quiet and secure retreat where one can relax, think, or meditate
29. br____n painted faces *adj.* bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)
30. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
31. fo____e the consequences *v.* to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future
32. pa__l visit *adj.* relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church
33. fa____y dream *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
34. before Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
35. em____d ring *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
36. co____ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

ANSWERS: 28. sanctum, 29. brazen, 30. rev, 31. foresee, 32. papal, 33. faraway, 34. Christ, 35. emerald, 36. compress

37. strive for ma_____y *n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
38. environmental ad_____ty *n.* difficulties or hardships that someone faces
39. butter ch_____ng *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
40. im__l action *v.* to drive, motivate, or urge someone to take action; to propel or provide a strong force to move something in a specific direction
41. sp_____er cell *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
42. en_____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
43. pr___l eras *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
44. cracks in the pl_____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
45. 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

ANSWERS: 37. mastery, 38. adversity, 39. churning, 40. impel, 41. splinter, 42. envision, 43. primal, 44. plaster, 45. unfold

46. poignant vi_____te *n.* a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration
47. en_____ss a broad range *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
48. rigid ins_____ce *n.* the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence
49. remove a sp_____er *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
50. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
51. royal mo_____r *n.* a name or nickname, especially one that is unconventional or adopted rather than given
52. a sense of gl__m *n.* a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty
53. mental fo_____de *n.* mental or emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, or danger; the ability to endure hardship or pain with courage and resilience

ANSWERS: 46. vignette, 47. encompass, 48. insistence, 49. splinter, 50. rev, 51. moniker, 52. gloom, 53. fortitude

54. ho__r around the table *v.* to stay in one place in the air
55. motion b__r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
56. en_____ss the enemy *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
57. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
58. lost in gr_____ur *n.* the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring
59. pa_____al views *adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings
60. the ke_____ne of campaign reform *n.* the central stone at the top of an arch, which holds all other stones in place
61. pink to__z *n.* a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
62. collective ins_____ce *n.* the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence

ANSWERS: 54. hover, 55. blur, 56. encompass, 57. storytelling, 58. grandeur, 59. parochial, 60. keystone, 61. topaz, 62. insistence

63. s__r to new heights *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
64. reached the pi____le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
65. de___e private property *v.* to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it
66. secret sa_____m *n.* a private or sacred place, often a quiet and secure retreat where one can relax, think, or meditate
67. br___n lie *adj.* bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)
68. reduce geo_____cal risk *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
69. to__z jewelry *n.* a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
70. Je___h culture *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
71. scu_____al masterpiece *adj.* relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a three-dimensional quality or appearance

ANSWERS: 63. soar, 64. pinnacle, 65. deface, 66. sanctum, 67. brazen, 68. geopolitical, 69. topaz, 70. Jewish, 71. sculptural

72. ca____a in poetry *n.* a pause or break in a line of poetry, music, or speech, usually marked by punctuation or a natural pause in the rhythm; a momentary interruption or cessation
73. de____te for Christmas *v.* to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc
74. en____on the future *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
75. the fr___e on the fireplace *n.* a decorative band or strip that is placed horizontally on a wall, often just below the ceiling or the cornice
76. environmental mi____sm *n.* a miniature or small-scale version of something that represents the larger whole or system; a representation of society or culture on a smaller scale
77. de____ly different *adv.* in a manner that is beyond doubt or question; in a way that is clear and unmistakable; in an emphatic or determined manner
78. daub the ceiling with pl____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
79. Ap____e Paul *n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
80. a_k of salvation *n.* (in the Bible) a boat built by Noah to save his family and animals from the flood; a large, flat-bottomed boat with a pointed bow and stern, used in ancient times to transport people and goods

ANSWERS: 72. caesura, 73. decorate, 74. envision, 75. frieze, 76. microcosm, 77. decidedly, 78. plaster, 79. apostle, 80. ark

81. the pa___n saint of a place *n.* a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
82. mon_____al task *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
83. decorative fr___e *n.* a decorative band or strip that is placed horizontally on a wall, often just below the ceiling or the cornice
84. medieval he_____e *n.* a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film
85. coastal ar_____ry *n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces
86. traditional han_____fts *n.* a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving
87. struggling with ad_____ty *n.* difficulties or hardships that someone faces
88. pr_____e over ceremony *v.* to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
89. la_____d summer afternoon *adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest

ANSWERS: 81. patron, 82. monumental, 83. frieze, 84. heroine, 85. artillery, 86. handicraft, 87. adversity, 88. preside, 89. languid

90. s__r in popularity *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
91. pr___l fear *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
92. vi_____ry business *adj.* having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative
93. sharpen ch___l *n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
94. mon_____al sculpture *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
95. ch_____ng emotions *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
96. seed h__k *n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
97. flattering co_____er *n.* a person who is a member of a royal court, particularly one who has a close and influential role in the court's affairs; a person who seeks favor or recognition from those in positions of authority or power
98. ke_____ne for success *n.* the central stone at the top of an arch, which holds all other stones in place

ANSWERS: 90. soar, 91. primal, 92. visionary, 93. chisel, 94. monumental, 95. churning, 96. husk, 97. courtier, 98. keystone

99. ig___e passion *v.* to set on fire; to cause to start burning
100. intricate ta____ry design *n.* a piece of fabric or cloth that is woven with intricate designs or scenes, often depicting historical or mythological events; a complex or intricate story, idea, or situation
101. han_____ft workshop *n.* a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving
102. ig___e a boom *v.* to set on fire; to cause to start burning
103. vegetable s__w *n.* a dish consisting of meat and vegetables simmered in liquid typically served hot as a main course or soup; a state of mental or emotional agitation or confusion
104. sc_____t lipstick *n.* a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
105. pr_____im victory *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
106. an aft_____ght decision *n.* a thought or idea that comes to mind after the fact, often too late to be of much use; something that is added or considered belatedly, especially in speech or writing
107. military fo_____ss *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

ANSWERS: 99. ignite, 100. tapestry, 101. handicraft, 102. ignite, 103. stew, 104. scarlet, 105. proclaim, 106. afterthought, 107. fortress

108. medieval fr___o *n.* a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image
109. an em_____d gem *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
110. decisive ju_____re *n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam
111. di_____ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
112. in the Book of Ge_____s *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
113. fa_____y land *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
114. fo_____de in adversity *n.* mental or emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, or danger; the ability to endure hardship or pain with courage and resilience
115. Je___h history *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
116. nieces and ne___ws *n.* a son of your brother or sister
117. teaching of Ch___t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

ANSWERS: 108. fresco, 109. emerald, 110. juncture, 111. distract, 112. genesis, 113. faraway, 114. fortitude, 115. Jewish, 116. nephew, 117. Christ

118. gl__m-filled room *n.* a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty
119. di____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
120. an ap____e of revolution *n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
121. cu_____ll situation *n.* a pitch in baseball that breaks unexpectedly; a surprising or unexpected twist or turn in a situation
122. mainstream wo_____ew *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
123. major se_____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
124. the ge_____s of civilization *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
125. pa_____al community *adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

ANSWERS: 118. gloom, 119. distract, 120. apostle, 121. curveball, 122. worldview, 123. setback, 124. genesis, 125. parochial

126. I__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
127. a Christian ma___r *n.* a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs
128. di___l a painful feeling *v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea
129. ma_____y of mathematics *n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
130. political sa___r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
131. up___t mountains *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
132. political pa___n *n.* a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
133. I__m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
134. political exh_____on *n.* a strong and passionate urging or encouragement to take a specific action or to adopt a particular behavior or attitude

ANSWERS: 126. loom, 127. martyr, 128. dispel, 129. mastery, 130. savior, 131. uplift, 132. patron, 133. loom, 134. exhortation

135. ar_____ry fire *n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces
136. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
137. vi_____ry ideas *adj.* having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative
138. s__w meat *n.* a dish consisting of meat and vegetables simmered in liquid typically served hot as a main course or soup; a state of mental or emotional agitation or confusion
139. hu___e through life *v.* to move quickly and forcefully, especially in an uncontrolled or dangerous way
140. fr___o secco *n.* a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image
141. the wo_____ew of the ancient civilization *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
142. up___t my spirit *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

ANSWERS: 135. artillery, 136. confer, 137. visionary, 138. stew, 139. hurtle, 140. fresco, 141. worldview, 142. uplift

143. scu_____al design *adj.* relating to or resembling sculpture (= a three-dimensional work of art); having a three-dimensional quality or appearance
144. ch___l some money *n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
145. la_____d movements *adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
146. cul_____on altitude *n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
147. mythical si__l *n.* a prophetess or seer in ancient Greek or Roman mythology, often associated with being able to deliver divine messages or predictions; a woman who is regarded as being wise, insightful, or having expert knowledge in a particular field
148. architectural pi_____le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
149. h__k removal *n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
150. pray to the sa____r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

ANSWERS: 143. sculptural, 144. chisel, 145. languid, 146. culmination, 147. sibyl, 148. pinnacle, 149. husk, 150. savior

151. colorful ta____ry *n.* a piece of fabric or cloth that is woven with intricate designs or scenes, often depicting historical or mythological events; a complex or intricate story, idea, or situation
152. en____ch on the realm *v.* to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.
153. y__n in sleepiness *v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
154. the queen's co____ers *n.* a person who is a member of a royal court, particularly one who has a close and influential role in the court's affairs; a person who seeks favor or recognition from those in positions of authority or power
155. vi____te from the incident *n.* a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration
156. the geo____cal situations *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
157. exh____on to succeed *n.* a strong and passionate urging or encouragement to take a specific action or to adopt a particular behavior or attitude

ANSWERS: 151. tapestry, 152. encroach, 153. yawn, 154. courtier, 155. vignette, 156. geopolitical, 157. exhortation

158. commonly used mo____r *n.* a name or nickname, especially one that is unconventional or adopted rather than given
159. lazy y__n *v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
160. start building an a_k *n.* (in the Bible) a boat built by Noah to save his family and animals from the flood; a large, flat-bottomed boat with a pointed bow and stern, used in ancient times to transport people and goods
161. pr____im law *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
162. sc____t petals *n.* a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
163. co____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
164. hu___e into a tunnel *v.* to move quickly and forcefully, especially in an uncontrolled or dangerous way
165. X-ray ma____rs *n.* a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs
166. pr____e at the piano *v.* to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
167. de___e the wall with graffiti *v.* to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it

ANSWERS: 158. moniker, 159. yawn, 160. ark, 161. proclaim, 162. scarlet, 163. compress, 164. hurtle, 165. martyr, 166. preside, 167. deface

168. 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
169. ancient si__l *n.* a prophetess or seer in ancient Greek or Roman mythology, often associated with being able to deliver divine messages or predictions; a woman who is regarded as being wise, insightful, or having expert knowledge in a particular field
170. fo_____ss wall *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
171. en_____ch on the habitat of the animal *v.* to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.
172. ho__r between life and death *v.* to stay in one place in the air

ANSWERS: 168. unfold, 169. sibyl, 170. fortress, 171. encroach, 172. hover

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

2. The _____ paintings in the church were over 500 years old.
n. a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image

3. Despite her _____ he refused to change his mind.
n. the act or an instance of demanding or saying something clearly; persistence

4. The _____ architecture was characterized by a long central nave, with aisles on either side and a large apse at one end, often used as a sanctuary.
n. a large and important church, typically one with a nave, aisles, and a raised platform at one or both ends, and often a higher central area

5. The _____ thief stole the diamond right out of the display case.
adj. bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)

6. His passion for social justice _____ him to join the protest march.
v. to drive, motivate, or urge someone to take action; to propel or provide a strong force to move something in a specific direction

7. You have no right to _____ on my leisure time.
v. to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. distract, 2. fresco, 3. insistence, 4. basilica's, 5. brazen, 6. impelled, 7. encroach

8. She wore a stunning necklace adorned with a large _____ gemstone.
- n.* a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
9. The _____ pace of the rural town was a refreshing change from the bustling city life.
- adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
10. The data he prepared was completely _____.
- n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
11. The army brought in heavier _____ to break through the enemy defenses.
- n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces
12. The optimal solution that would _____ all these elements has yet to be proposed.
- v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
13. The view from the _____ hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.
- adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
14. The country holds dominant _____ power over its neighbors.
- adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

ANSWERS: 8. topaz, 9. languid, 10. sham, 11. artillery, 12. encompass, 13. faraway, 14. geopolitical

15. The team demonstrated great resilience in the face of _____ and won the game.
n. difficulties or hardships that someone faces
16. The teacher warned the boys not to _____ public property.
v. to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it
17. I made a delicious beef _____ for dinner tonight.
n. a dish consisting of meat and vegetables simmered in liquid typically served hot as a main course or soup; a state of mental or emotional agitation or confusion
18. My _____ is eight months old and still being breastfed.
n. a son of your brother or sister
19. The _____ in the stock market has been a relief to investors.
n. the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
20. The _____ leader had a clear plan for the company's future.
adj. having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative
21. He _____ the fireworks with a single spark.
v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning
22. The brave _____ rescued the prince from the dragon's lair.
n. a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film

ANSWERS: 15. adversity, 16. deface, 17. stew, 18. nephew, 19. uplift, 20. visionary, 21. ignited, 22. heroine

23. The twelve _____ were Jesus' closest followers and were chosen to spread his teachings.
- n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
24. The archaeologist used a small _____ to excavate the ancient artifact.
- n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
25. The _____ palace was a grand and imposing structure.
- adj.* relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church
26. The _____ on the temple depicted scenes from mythology.
- n.* a decorative band or strip that is placed horizontally on a wall, often just below the ceiling or the cornice
27. The salesperson used a special offer to _____ customers into buying the product.
- v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
28. The country finally gained _____ over the whole land of its neighbors.
- n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
29. The ancient _____ was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.
- n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
30. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a _____ of colors and shapes.
- n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

ANSWERS: 23. apostles, 24. chisel, 25. papal, 26. frieze, 27. lure, 28. mastery, 29. fortress, 30. blur

31. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
32. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
33. The team experienced a _____ when their star player was injured during the game.
- n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
34. Patience is the _____ of all sores.
- n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
35. His powerful _____ motivated the team to give their best performance in the championship.
- n.* a strong and passionate urging or encouragement to take a specific action or to adopt a particular behavior or attitude
36. The _____ of The King of Pop will forever be associated with Michael Jackson.
- n.* a name or nickname, especially one that is unconventional or adopted rather than given
37. Their achievements stand as a _____ of centuries of development.
- n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time

ANSWERS: 31. rev, 32. storytelling, 33. setback, 34. plaster, 35. exhortation, 36. moniker, 37. culmination

38. The _____ prophecies were sought out by kings and rulers from all over the land.
- n.* a prophetess or seer in ancient Greek or Roman mythology, often associated with being able to deliver divine messages or predictions; a woman who is regarded as being wise, insightful, or having expert knowledge in a particular field
39. The _____ of the rainy weather was beginning to affect her mood.
- n.* a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty
40. The bird _____ through the sky, and its wings spread wide.
- v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
41. At this _____ in the project, we must reassess our plans and make some changes.
- n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam
42. They _____ the room with balloons and streamers for the birthday party.
- v.* to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc
43. The song had a melodic _____ that added a sense of drama to the lyrics.
- n.* a pause or break in a line of poetry, music, or speech, usually marked by punctuation or a natural pause in the rhythm; a momentary interruption or cessation
44. Two birds were _____ overhead.
- v.* to stay in one place in the air

ANSWERS: 38. sibyl's, 39. gloom, 40. soared, 41. juncture, 42. decorated, 43. caesura, 44. hovering

45. 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
46. The guru of that religion thought of himself as a _____.
- n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
47. She spent her free time making _____ like pottery and crocheting to sell at the local market.
- n.* a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving
48. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
49. The _____ attitude of the small town made it difficult for outsiders to feel welcome.
- adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings
50. I _____ a problem arising if we don't address this issue now.
- v.* to perceive or predict; to anticipate or expect something to happen in the future
51. Forgetting to mention our meeting was just an _____ for him.
- n.* a thought or idea that comes to mind after the fact, often too late to be of much use; something that is added or considered belatedly, especially in speech or writing

ANSWERS: 45. worldviews, 46. savior, 47. handicrafts, 48. confer, 49. parochial, 50. foresee, 51. afterthought

52. The _____ details on the building's facade were simply stunning.

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

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

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

54. She showed great _____ in facing her illness with grace and strength.

n. mental or emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, or danger; the ability to endure hardship or pain with courage and resilience

55. The leader _____ a state of emergency in the country.

v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

56. My friend is a _____ woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

57. The car _____ down the highway at breakneck speed.

v. to move quickly and forcefully, especially in an uncontrolled or dangerous way

58. Climbing to the _____ of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.

n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

59. The _____ of the waves on the beach made it difficult to swim.

n. the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy

ANSWERS: 52. sculptural, 53. monumental, 54. fortitude, 55. proclaimed, 56. Jewish, 57. hurtled, 58. pinnacle, 59. churning

60. The _____ on the wall depicted a medieval battle scene.
- n.* a piece of fabric or cloth that is woven with intricate designs or scenes, often depicting historical or mythological events; a complex or intricate story, idea, or situation
61. The yoga studio offered a peaceful _____ where customers could escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.
- n.* a private or sacred place, often a quiet and secure retreat where one can relax, think, or meditate
62. The _____ of the coconut was removed to reveal the fruit inside.
- n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
63. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
- v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
64. The car window shattered into a million little _____ during the crash.
- n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
65. The pitcher threw a sharp _____ that the batter was not expecting.
- n.* a pitch in baseball that breaks unexpectedly; a surprising or unexpected twist or turn in a situation
66. We cannot _____ her as President.
- v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

ANSWERS: 60. tapestry, 61. sanctum, 62. husk, 63. compressed, 64. splinters, 65. curveball, 66. envision

67. 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
68. The _____ will preside over the meeting tomorrow.
- v.* to be in charge of or to lead a meeting, ceremony, or organization
69. According to the story, Noah and his family were the only flood survivors, as they were on the _____.
- n.* (in the Bible) a boat built by Noah to save his family and animals from the flood; a large, flat-bottomed boat with a pointed bow and stern, used in ancient times to transport people and goods
70. The grand cathedral stood as a symbol of _____ power and influence.
- adj.* relating to the Christian Church, its hierarchy, or its clergy; pertaining to religious matters or the practice of organized religion
71. They have been a _____ of this restaurant for many years.
- n.* a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or activity; a loyal or regular customer of a particular shop, restaurant, etc.
72. The novel has a series of _____ that showcase the everyday struggles of its characters.
- n.* a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration
73. He couldn't help but _____ during the long and boring presentation.
- v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen

ANSWERS: 67. unfolded, 68. president, 69. ark, 70. ecclesiastical, 71. patron, 72. vignettes, 73. yawn

74. The _____ instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.
adj. of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
75. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
76. He died a _____ to science.
n. a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs
77. The politician's remarks became the _____ of the clash between the two countries.
n. the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
78. The castle's _____ was breathtaking, with its towering turrets and sweeping arches.
n. the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring
79. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
80. The small town felt like a _____ of the larger society.
n. a miniature or small-scale version of something that represents the larger whole or system; a representation of society or culture on a smaller scale
81. The _____ job was to advise the king on politics and diplomacy.
n. a person who is a member of a royal court, particularly one who has a close and influential role in the court's affairs; a person who seeks favor or recognition from those in positions of authority or power

ANSWERS: 74. primal, 75. loomed, 76. martyr, 77. genesis, 78. grandeur, 79. Christmas, 80. microcosm, 81. courtier's

82. She wore a _____ dress to the party, making her stand out in the crowd.

n. a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red

83. The _____ green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

84. She was _____ unimpressed with his latest attempt at a joke.

adv. in a manner that is beyond doubt or question; in a way that is clear and unmistakable; in an emphatic or determined manner

85. The _____ of the arch held the structure together.

n. the central stone at the top of an arch, which holds all other stones in place

86. This program aims to _____ certain misconceptions about the disease.

v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

ANSWERS: 82. scarlet, 83. emerald, 84. decidedly, 85. keystone, 86. dispel