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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Marlene Zuk: What we learn from insects' sex lives |
TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

precede

v. to happen or go before something or someone in time or space

synonym: lead, forego, antecede

(1) men often **precede** women when walking, (2) **precede** any discussion

Agricultural development generally **precedes** economic growth.

kitten

n. a young cat

synonym: catling, kitling, puss

(1) **kitten** formula, (2) newborn **kitten**

The **kitten's** fur was so fluffy that it looked like it was always moving.

pollinator

n. an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds

synonym: fertilizer, pollenizer, pollen carrier

(1) **pollinator** species, (2) beneficial **pollinator**

Bees are important **pollinators** for many crops and plants.

animosity

n. strong hostility or hatred towards someone or something, often resulting in conflict or ill-will

synonym: enmity, hostility, bitterness

(1) personal **animosity**, (2) deep-seated **animosity**

The **animosity** between the two political parties has only grown stronger over the years.

illuminating

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

synonym: enlightening, informative, clarifying

(1) **illuminating** light, (2) an **illuminating** answer

The lecture was **illuminating** and gave me a new perspective on the topic.

aphid

n. a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies

synonym: plant louse, greenfly, blackfly

(1) **aphid** infestation, (2) **aphid** control

The **aphids** were eating all the leaves of my tomato plants.

beetle

n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

(1) **beetle** brows, (2) a **beetle** larva

In ancient civilizations, the scarab **beetle** was worshiped as a sacred creature.

dragonfly

n. a slender-bodied non-stinging insect having two pairs of large transparent wings that are outspread at rest

(1) **dragonfly** passing over the water, (2) **dragonfly** larva

I caught a rare **dragonfly** in the mountains.

formidable

adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration

synonym: daunting, intimidating, fearful

(1) **formidable** challenge, (2) **formidable** competitor

The mountain range was a **formidable** obstacle for the

hikers.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym: mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds

He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

cannibalism

n. the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species

synonym: anthropophagy, man-eating

(1) **cannibalism** practice, (2) incidence of **cannibalism**

The tribe's religious rituals involved **cannibalism** of their enemies.

rampant

adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

synonym: prevalent, dense, uncontrolled

(1) **rampant** growth of weeds, (2) **rampant** corruption

In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be **rampant**.

dictate

v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

synonym: read out, prescribe, order

(1) **dictate** a letter to secretary, (2) **dictate** to the associate

The allies **dictated** the terms of surrender to the country.

sitcom

n. a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format

synonym: comedy, TV show

(1) **sitcom** series, (2) popular **sitcom**

I love to watch **sitcoms** when I need a good laugh.

coy *adj.* deliberately shy, evasive, or modest, often in a way that is seen as flirtatious or coquettish; unwilling to commit to a course of action or express an opinion
synonym : bashful, shy, demure
(1) **coy** smile, (2) **coy** behavior
The **coy** mannerisms of the actress only added to her allure on and off the screen.

katydid *n.* a giant, green or brown grasshopper-like insect with long antennae and wings, known for its distinctive sound produced by rubbing its legs together
synonym : bush cricket, long-horned grasshopper
(1) **katydid** sound, (2) **katydid** habitat
The **katydid's** song filled the warm summer night.

grasshopper *n.* large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
synonym : locust, katydid, cricket
(1) **grasshopper** mice, (2) **grasshopper** species
The **grasshopper** leaped from one blade of grass to another.

picky *adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
synonym : fussy, choosy, particular
(1) **picky** personality, (2) **picky** about details
My **picky** eater only likes to eat certain types of vegetables.

nuptial *adj.* relating to a wedding, marriage, or marital union; being used or done as part of a wedding ceremony
synonym : bridal, matrimonial, marital
(1) **nuptial** vow, (2) **nuptial** knot
The bride wore a stunning **nuptial** gown on her wedding day.

appendage

n. a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body

synonym : extension, limb, attachment

(1) spiny **appendage**, (2) mechanical **appendage**

The spider's **appendage** allowed it to climb up the wall easily.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym : chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

fertilize

v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

synonym : pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

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.

flit

v. to move quickly and lightly from place to place, often without purpose or direction; to flutter or dart quickly, like

a bird or insect

synonym : flutter, dart, skim

(1) **flit** away into the darkness, (2) **flit** from place to place
The butterfly would **flit** from flower to flower, collecting nectar.

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym : hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

disapprove

v. to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone

synonym : object, reject, condemn

(1) **disapprove** of the government, (2) publicly **disapprove**
I **disapprove** of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.

hive

n. a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people

synonym : apiary, swarm, pack

(1) honeybees in **hives**, (2) a **hive** of activity

Bees were buzzing around the **hive**

nectar

n. a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring

synonym : honey, ambrosia, syrup

(1) **nectar** of the gods, (2) fruit **nectar**

The **nectar** of the flowers attracted many bees to the garden.

pollen

n. a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination

synonym : dust, spores, allergen

(1) **pollen** allergy symptoms, (2) high **pollen** count
My allergies flare up during **pollen** season, making it difficult to breathe.

sting

v. to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick

synonym: bite, prick, poke

(1) **sting** me on the arm, (2) **sting** his face

Bees **sting** as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

ferocious

adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel

synonym: savage, fierce, brutal

(1) **ferocious** beast, (2) **ferocious** predator

The lion's **ferocious** roar could be heard from miles away.

portray

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

synonym: depict, describe, illustrate

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

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

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

unnerving

adj. making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened

synonym : frightening, horrifying, uneasy

(1) **unnerving** effect, (2) with **unnerving** speed

Having dental treatment was an **unnerving** experience for me.

anthropomorphize

v. to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities

synonym : personify, humanize

(1) **anthropomorphize** animals, (2) **anthropomorphize** God

The children **anthropomorphized** their stuffed animals and gave them personalities.

exoskeleton

n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab

synonym : chitin, exocuticle, carapace

(1) **exoskeleton** suit, (2) robotic **exoskeleton**

The **exoskeleton** of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.

speculate

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

synonym : assume, conjecture, infer

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

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

supernatural

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

synonym : paranormal, otherworldly, preternatural

(1) **supernatural** beings, (2) **supernatural** intuition

The **supernatural** powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

dabble

v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid

synonym: toy with, tinker with, play at

(1) **dabble** in a hobby, (2) **dabble** at French

They often **dabble** in new business ventures but only commit partially.

paranormal

adj. relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences

synonym: supernatural, mystical, otherworldly

(1) **paranormal** experience, (2) **paranormal** phenomena

The haunted house was said to be a hotspot for **paranormal** activity.

Session 2: Spelling

1. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
2. im_____e painting styles *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
3. popular si____m *n.* a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
4. di_____e a letter to secretary *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
5. im_____e animal sounds *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
6. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
7. fe_____us beast *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
8. ki____n formula *n.* a young cat
9. beneficial pol_____or *n.* an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds
10. spiny ap_____ge *n.* a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body

ANSWERS: 1. medicinal, 2. imitate, 3. sitcom, 4. dictate, 5. imitate, 6. medicinal, 7. ferocious, 8. kitten, 9. pollinator, 10. appendage

11. fruit ne___r *n.* a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring
12. ap__d infestation *n.* a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies
13. po____y feelings in words *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
14. nu____l knot *adj.* relating to a wedding, marriage, or marital union; being used or done as part of a wedding ceremony
15. negative ste____pes *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
16. si___m series *n.* a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
17. ill____ing light *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
18. pr____e any discussion *v.* to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
19. par____al experience *adj.* relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences

ANSWERS: 11. nectar, 12. aphid, 13. portray, 14. nuptial, 15. stereotype, 16. sitcom, 17. illuminating, 18. precede, 19. paranormal

20. f__t from place to place *v.* to move quickly and lightly from place to place, often without purpose or direction; to flutter or dart quickly, like a bird or insect
21. honeybees in h__es *n.* a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people
22. sup_____ral beings *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
23. dis_____ve of the government *v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
24. accurately po_____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
25. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
26. mechanical ap_____ge *n.* a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body
27. f__t away into the darkness *v.* to move quickly and lightly from place to place, often without purpose or direction; to flutter or dart quickly, like a bird or insect
28. di_____e to the associate *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

ANSWERS: 20. flit, 21. hive, 22. supernatural, 23. disapprove, 24. portray, 25. blob, 26. appendage, 27. flit, 28. dictate

29. gra_____er species *n.* large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
30. ka_____d sound *n.* a giant, green or brown grasshopper-like insect with long antennae and wings, known for its distinctive sound produced by rubbing its legs together
31. deep-seated an_____ty *n.* strong hostility or hatred towards someone or something, often resulting in conflict or ill-will
32. avoid ste_____pe *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
33. ne____r of the gods *n.* a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring
34. men often pr_____e women when walking *v.* to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
35. personal an_____ty *n.* strong hostility or hatred towards someone or something, often resulting in conflict or ill-will
36. da____e at French *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
37. exo_____on suit *n.* a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab

ANSWERS: 29. grasshopper, 30. katydid, 31. animosity, 32. stereotype, 33. nectar, 34. precede, 35. animosity, 36. dabble, 37. exoskeleton

38. an ill_____ing answer *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
39. for_____le challenge *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
40. sp_____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
41. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
42. be___e brows *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
43. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
44. newborn ki___n *n.* a young cat
45. ra_____t growth of weeds *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
46. pi__y about details *adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
47. nu_____l vow *adj.* relating to a wedding, marriage, or marital union; being used or done as part of a wedding ceremony
48. a h__e of activity *n.* a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people

ANSWERS: 38. illuminating, 39. formidable, 40. speculate, 41. blob, 42. beetle, 43. confuse, 44. kitten, 45. rampant, 46. picky, 47. nuptial, 48. hive

49. c_y smile *adj.* deliberately shy, evasive, or modest, often in a way that is seen as flirtatious or coquettish; unwilling to commit to a course of action or express an opinion
50. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
51. can_____sm practice *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
52. for_____le competitor *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
53. dr_____ly passing over the water *n.* a slender-bodied non-stinging insect having two pairs of large transparent wings that are outspread at rest
54. 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
55. publicly dis_____ve *v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
56. fe_____ze the soil *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 49. coy, 50. speculate, 51. cannibalism, 52. formidable, 53. dragonfly, 54. wasp, 55. disapprove, 56. fertilize

57. incidence of can_____sm *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
58. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
59. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
60. st__g his face *v.* to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick
61. par_____al phenomena *adj.* relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences
62. un_____ng effect *adj.* making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened
63. high po___n count *n.* a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination

ANSWERS: 57. cannibalism, 58. confuse, 59. drone, 60. sting, 61. paranormal, 62. unnerving, 63. pollen

64. with un_____ng speed *adj.* making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened
65. fe_____us predator *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
66. ant_____ize God *v.* to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities
67. gra_____er mice *n.* large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
68. sup_____ral intuition *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
69. dr_____ly larva *n.* a slender-bodied non-stinging insect having two pairs of large transparent wings that are outspread at rest
70. ka_____d habitat *n.* a giant, green or brown grasshopper-like insect with long antennae and wings, known for its distinctive sound produced by rubbing its legs together
71. ant_____ize animals *v.* to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities
72. pi__y personality *adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
73. fe_____ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 64. unnerving, 65. ferocious, 66. anthropomorphize, 67. grasshopper, 68. supernatural, 69. dragonfly, 70. katydid, 71. anthropomorphize, 72. picky, 73. fertilize

74. ra____t corruption *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
75. robotic exo_____on *n.* a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
76. 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
77. c_y behavior *adj.* deliberately shy, evasive, or modest, often in a way that is seen as flirtatious or coquettish; unwilling to commit to a course of action or express an opinion
78. pol_____or species *n.* an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds
79. st__g me on the arm *v.* to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick
80. po___n allergy symptoms *n.* a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination
81. a be___e larva *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

ANSWERS: 74. rampant, 75. exoskeleton, 76. wasp, 77. coy, 78. pollinator, 79. sting, 80. pollen, 81. beetle

82. da___e in a hobby *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
83. ap__d control *n.* a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies
84. the speaker's dr__e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

ANSWERS: 82. dabble, 83. aphid, 84. drone

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The spider's _____ allowed it to climb up the wall easily.
n. a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body

2. The _____ were eating all the leaves of my tomato plants.
n. a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies

3. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

4. The haunted house was said to be a hotspot for _____ activity.
adj. relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences

5. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.
v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

6. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

7. Bees are important _____ for many crops and plants.
n. an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds

ANSWERS: 1. appendage, 2. aphids, 3. blob, 4. paranormal, 5. imitated, 6. drone, 7. pollinators

8. The _____ between the two political parties has only grown stronger over the years.
- n.* strong hostility or hatred towards someone or something, often resulting in conflict or ill-will
9. I love to watch _____ when I need a good laugh.
- n.* a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
10. The ___ mannerisms of the actress only added to her allure on and off the screen.
- adj.* deliberately shy, evasive, or modest, often in a way that is seen as flirtatious or coquettish; unwilling to commit to a course of action or express an opinion
11. In ancient civilizations, the scarab _____ was worshiped as a sacred creature.
- n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
12. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
13. I caught a rare _____ in the mountains.
- n.* a slender-bodied non-stinging insect having two pairs of large transparent wings that are outspread at rest
14. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
15. My allergies flare up during _____ season, making it difficult to breathe.
- n.* a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination

ANSWERS: 8. animosity, 9. sitcoms, 10. coy, 11. beetle, 12. stereotypes, 13. dragonfly, 14. confused, 15. pollen

16. I _____ of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.
- v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
17. The tribe's religious rituals involved _____ of their enemies.
- n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
18. In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be _____.
- adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
19. Having dental treatment was an _____ experience for me.
- adj.* making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened
20. 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
21. The _____ song filled the warm summer night.
- n.* a giant, green or brown grasshopper-like insect with long antennae and wings, known for its distinctive sound produced by rubbing its legs together
22. The allies _____ the terms of surrender to the country.
- v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
23. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
- v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

ANSWERS: 16. disapprove, 17. cannibalism, 18. rampant, 19. unnerving, 20. wasp, 21. katydid's, 22. dictated, 23. speculated

24. The mountain range was a _____ obstacle for the hikers.
adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
25. Agricultural development generally _____ economic growth.
v. to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
26. The butterfly would _____ from flower to flower, collecting nectar.
v. to move quickly and lightly from place to place, often without purpose or direction; to flutter or dart quickly, like a bird or insect
27. The _____ fur was so fluffy that it looked like it was always moving.
n. a young cat
28. They often _____ in new business ventures but only commit partially.
v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
29. Bees were buzzing around the _____
n. a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people
30. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
31. My _____ eater only likes to eat certain types of vegetables.
adj. overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences

ANSWERS: 24. formidable, 25. precedes, 26. flit, 27. kitten's, 28. dabble, 29. hive, 30. portray, 31. picky

32. The _____ of the flowers attracted many bees to the garden.
n. a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring
33. The lecture was _____ and gave me a new perspective on the topic.
adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
34. Bees _____ as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.
v. to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick
35. The _____ of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.
n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
36. The bride wore a stunning _____ gown on her wedding day.
adj. relating to a wedding, marriage, or marital union; being used or done as part of a wedding ceremony
37. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to _____ a wife.
v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
38. The lion's _____ roar could be heard from miles away.
adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel
39. The _____ powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.
adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

ANSWERS: 32. nectar, 33. illuminating, 34. sting, 35. exoskeleton, 36. nuptial, 37. fertilize, 38. ferocious, 39. supernatural

40. The children _____ their stuffed animals and gave them personalities.

v. to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities

41. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

42. The _____ leaped from one blade of grass to another.

n. large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality

ANSWERS: 40. anthropomorphized, 41. medicinal, 42. grasshopper