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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mary Norris: The nit-picking glory of The New Yorker's Comma Queen | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

forbid

v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

synonym: prohibit, ban, outlaw

(1) **forbid** smoking in public areas, (2) **forbid** the use of chemical weapons

God **forbid** you should regret your marriage.

punctuate

v. to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically

synonym: emphasize, accent, mark

(1) **punctuate** a sentence, (2) **punctuate** his talk

Strikes had also **punctuated** the preceding weeks.

dieresis

n. a mark (¨) placed above a vowel, typically to indicate that it should be pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, creating a separate syllable

synonym: umlaut

(1) diacritical **dieresis**, (2) mark with **dieresis**

The word "naïve" is an example of a **dieresis** used in English to indicate that the two vowels should be pronounced separately.

tease

v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

synonym: bully, annoy, provoke

(1) **tease** the children, (2) **tease** wool

This ad is intended to **tease** a competing product.

hyphen

n. a punctuation mark (-) used to connect two words or parts of a word, to indicate a compound word, or to separate syllables for clarity

synonym: dash, connection

(1) double **hyphen**, (2) missing **hyphen**

Make sure to put a **hyphen** between your phone number digits.

proofread

v. to examine written material and mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting; to read carefully and correct errors

synonym: proof, check, edit

(1) **proofread** document, (2) **proofread** manuscript

The teacher asked the student to **proofread** the essay as part of the revision process

unintentional

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

synonym: accidental, unforeseen, spontaneous

(1) avoid **unintentional** harm, (2) **unintentional** insult

The mistake was **unintentional** and made in good faith.

invariably

adv. in every case or on every occasion; without exception

synonym: consistently, always, uniformly

(1) **invariably** polite, (2) **invariably** correct

She **invariably** arrived at the office early each day.

glaringly

adv. in a way that is obvious, conspicuous, or highly visible; in a manner that draws immediate attention or scrutiny

synonym: blatantly, obviously, conspicuously

(1) **glaringly** obvious fact, (2) **glaringly** bright

The flaws of the proposal were **glaringly** apparent during the meeting.

trump

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

fable

n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

synonym: fantasy, story, legend

(1) classic **fable**, (2) moralize a **fable**

In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known **fable**.

vernacular

n. a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region

synonym: dialect, idiom, lingo

(1) **vernacular** language, (2) native **vernacular**

The poet wrote in the **vernacular** of ordinary people.

nihilist

n. a person who rejects all religious, moral, and political beliefs and values; a person who believes life is meaningless and void of purpose

synonym: anarchist, cynic, skeptic

(1) violent **nihilist**, (2) militant **nihilist**

The professor accused the student of being a **nihilist** for constantly challenging the course material.

gait

n. a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion

synonym: pace, stride, step

(1) awkward **gait**, (2) brisk **gait**

The older woman's **gait** was slow and unsteady.

belie

v. to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something

synonym: disprove, refute, contradict

(1) **belie** his expectations, (2) **belies** the impact of the speaker's words

The peaceful surroundings **belied** the danger lurking just around the corner.

betray

v. to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

synonym: fail, denounce, display

(1) **betray** a friend, (2) **betray** confidence

He felt **betrayed** when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

wag

v. to move or swing back and forth or up and down in a lively or playful manner; to shake or quiver

synonym: waggle, swish, wave

(1) **wag** their laughter, (2) **wag** a forefinger

The cow lazily continued to **wag** its tail while grazing in the field.

expel

v. to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country

synonym: deport, oust, dislodge

(1) **expel** him from his native country, (2) **expel** air from the lungs

He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly **expelled** the smoke.

restrain

v. to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses

synonym: restrict, limit, control

(1) **restrain** from violence, (2) **restrain** a child

The police had to **restrain** the suspect after he became violent during the arrest.

maniac

adj. behaving in an extremely wild or violent way; (noun) a person who is extremely enthusiastic about or devoted to a particular thing

synonym : lunatic, maniacal, mad

(1) **maniac** about things, (2) a homicidal **maniac**

He was a **maniac** for collecting stamps.

stickler

n. someone who insists on strict adherence to rules, details, or standards; a person who is meticulous or pedantic about something

synonym : perfectionist, nitpicker, pedant

(1) **stickler** for details, (2) **stickler** for cleanliness

He was a **stickler** for punctuality and would not tolerate anyone being late.

egregious

adj. outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible

synonym : atrocious, flagrant, heinous

(1) **egregious** claim, (2) an **egregious** error

It was an **egregious** mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.

pact

n. a formal agreement between two or more parties

synonym : agreement, treaty, covenant

(1) a nonaggression **pact**, (2) aviation **pact**

The two countries made a **pact** to reduce their carbon emissions.

divulge

v. to reveal or make known something that was previously secret or confidential; to disclose information that was previously concealed or hidden

synonym : reveal, disclose, expose

(1) **divulge** whereabouts, (2) **divulge** information

He promised not to **divulge** confidential information to

anyone.

stern

adj. serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude

synonym : severe, harsh, strict

(1) **stern** warning, (2) a **stern** look

The students' antics did not amuse the **stern** teacher.

yore

n. a time long past, often nostalgic or romanticized

synonym : bygone, yesteryear, past

(1) stories of **yore**, (2) long-gone **yore**

In the days of **yore**, knights would ride on horseback and joust for honor.

embark

v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

synonym : enter, undertake, commence

(1) **embark** on a trip, (2) **embark** on a foolish adventure

We **embarked** on a new project.

simile

n. a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"

synonym : comparison, analogy, metaphor

(1) **simile** usage, (2) poetic **simile**

Her poetry is full of beautiful **similes** comparing nature to human emotion.

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.

poetic

adj. of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

synonym : literary, verse-like, rhythmic

(1) **poetic** genius, (2) **poetic** justice

The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a **poetic** scene from a movie.

indiscretion

n. an act or remark that shows a lack of good judgment, tact, or prudence; a behavior or disclosure that is considered inappropriate or unwise

synonym: mistake, error, blunder

(1) a moment of **indiscretion**, (2) **indiscretion** of youth

The tabloids exposed the celebrity's **indiscretion** in cheating on their partner.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

preposition

n. a word or group of words that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence, indicating location, time, direction, or manner (e.g., in, on, at, above, before, after)

synonym: connective, particle, word

(1) English **preposition**, (2) complex **preposition**

When learning a new language, understanding the use of **prepositions** can be quite challenging.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

distraught

adj. deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled

synonym: upset, troubled, distressed

(1) **distraught** with grief, (2) **distraught** emotions
After receiving the bad news, he was so **distraught** that he couldn't concentrate on anything else for the rest of the day.

abbreviate

v. to shorten a word or phrase by leaving out some of the letters or syllables; to make something shorter or more concise

synonym: shorten, truncate, condense

(1) **abbreviate** words, (2) **abbreviate** a long document
I will **abbreviate** the title of the article to save space.

pronoun

n. a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"

(1) **pronoun** usage, (2) possessive **pronoun**

In English, personal **pronouns** such as "he," "she," and "they" can replace a person's name to avoid repetition.

antecedent

n. something that happened or existed before a particular event or situation; (adjective) preceding in time or order

synonym: precursor, predecessor, (adjective) anterior

(1) **antecedent** conditions, (2) birth and **antecedents**

Chemistry has long historical **antecedents**, including alchemy.

plural

n. the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person

synonym: multiple, numerous, several

(1) **plural** form, (2) **plural** culture

We use **plural** nouns when there is more than one of something

legitimacy

n. the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

synonym: legality, lawfulness, authenticity

(1) democratic **legitimacy**, (2) challenge the **legitimacy**

I'm going to deny the **legitimacy** of his claim.

gratuitous

adj. given or done without charge or payment

synonym: unwarranted, unjustified, unmerited

(1) render **gratuitous** service, (2) **gratuitous** insult

The **gratuitous** violence in the movie was unnecessary and disturbing.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. ex__l air from the lungs | v. | to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country |
| 2. pr____n usage | n. | a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it" |
| 3. a nonaggression p__t | n. | a formal agreement between two or more parties |
| 4. tr__p card | n. | a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games |
| 5. em___k on a trip | v. | to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something |
| 6. st_____er for cleanliness | n. | someone who insists on strict adherence to rules, details, or standards; a person who is meticulous or pedantic about something |
| 7. te__e wool | v. | to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing |
| 8. pu_____te his talk | v. | to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically |
| 9. fo___d the use of chemical weapons | v. | to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising |

ANSWERS: 1. expel, 2. pronoun, 3. pact, 4. trump, 5. embark, 6. stickler, 7. tease, 8. punctuate, 9. forbid

10. a homicidal ma___c *adj.* behaving in an extremely wild or violent way; (noun) a person who is extremely enthusiastic about or devoted to a particular thing
11. complex pre_____on *n.* a word or group of words that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence, indicating location, time, direction, or manner (e.g., in, on, at, above, before, after)
12. aviation p__t *n.* a formal agreement between two or more parties
13. of___d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
14. moralize a fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
15. be___y confidence *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
16. re_____in a child *v.* to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses
17. inv_____ly correct *adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
18. w_g their laughter *v.* to move or swing back and forth or up and down in a lively or playful manner; to shake or quiver

ANSWERS: 10. maniac, 11. preposition, 12. pact, 13. offend, 14. fable, 15. betray, 16. restrain, 17. invariably, 18. wag

19. a moment of ind_____ion *n.* an act or remark that shows a lack of good judgment, tact, or prudence; a behavior or disclosure that is considered inappropriate or unwise
20. poetic si___e *n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"
21. democratic leg_____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason
22. diacritical di_____is *n.* a mark (¨) placed above a vowel, typically to indicate that it should be pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, creating a separate syllable
23. re_____in from violence *v.* to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses
24. po___c genius *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
25. pu_____te a sentence *v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
26. po___c justice *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

ANSWERS: 19. indiscretion, 20. simile, 21. legitimacy, 22. dieresis, 23. restrain, 24. poetic, 25. punctuate, 26. poetic

27. militant ni_____st *n.* a person who rejects all religious, moral, and political beliefs and values; a person who believes life is meaningless and void of purpose
28. dis_____ht with grief *adj.* deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
29. ind_____ion of youth *n.* an act or remark that shows a lack of good judgment, tact, or prudence; a behavior or disclosure that is considered inappropriate or unwise
30. double hy_____n *n.* a punctuation mark (-) used to connect two words or parts of a word, to indicate a compound word, or to separate syllables for clarity
31. English pre _____on *n.* a word or group of words that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence, indicating location, time, direction, or manner (e.g., in, on, at, above, before, after)
32. avoid uni _____nal harm *adj.* not done or made on purpose; accidental
33. dis_____ht emotions *adj.* deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
34. pr_____ad document *v.* to examine written material and mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting; to read carefully and correct errors
35. si_____e usage *n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"

ANSWERS: 27. nihilist, 28. distraught, 29. indiscretion, 30. hyphen, 31. preposition, 32. unintentional, 33. distraught, 34. proofread, 35. simile

36. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
37. abb_____te words *v.* to shorten a word or phrase by leaving out some of the letters or syllables; to make something shorter or more concise
38. fo___d smoking in public areas *v.* to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
39. be__e his expectations *v.* to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
40. awkward g__t *n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
41. gra_____us insult *adj.* given or done without charge or payment
42. challenge the leg_____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason
43. violent ni_____st *n.* a person who rejects all religious, moral, and political beliefs and values; a person who believes life is meaningless and void of purpose
44. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 36. sect, 37. abbreviate, 38. forbid, 39. belie, 40. gait, 41. gratuitous, 42. legitimacy, 43. nihilist, 44. confer

45. ex__l him from his native country *v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
46. em___k on a foolish adventure *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
47. st_____er for details *n.* someone who insists on strict adherence to rules, details, or standards; a person who is meticulous or pedantic about something
48. ver_____ar language *n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
49. stories of y__e *n.* a time long past, often nostalgic or romanticized
50. brisk g__t *n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
51. w_g a forefinger *v.* to move or swing back and forth or up and down in a lively or playful manner; to shake or quiver
52. pl___l culture *n.* the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
53. pl___l form *n.* the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
54. gl_____ly obvious fact *adv.* in a way that is obvious, conspicuous, or highly visible; in a manner that draws immediate attention or scrutiny

ANSWERS: 45. expel, 46. embark, 47. stickler, 48. vernacular, 49. yore, 50. gait, 51. wag, 52. plural, 53. plural, 54. glaringly

55. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
56. gl_____ly bright *adv.* in a way that is obvious, conspicuous, or highly visible; in a manner that draws immediate attention or scrutiny
57. be___y a friend *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
58. abb_____te a long document *v.* to shorten a word or phrase by leaving out some of the letters or syllables; to make something shorter or more concise
59. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
60. uni_____nal insult *adj.* not done or made on purpose; accidental
61. classic fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
62. choose tr__p *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
63. st__n warning *adj.* serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude
64. di_____e information *v.* to reveal or make known something that was previously secret or confidential; to disclose information that was previously concealed or hidden

ANSWERS: 55. industrious, 56. glaringly, 57. betray, 58. abbreviate, 59. sect, 60. unintentional, 61. fable, 62. trump, 63. stern, 64. divulge

65. mark with di____is *n.* a mark ("") placed above a vowel, typically to indicate that it should be pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, creating a separate syllable
66. native ver_____ar *n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
67. be__es the impact of the speaker's words *v.* to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
68. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
69. long-gone y__e *n.* a time long past, often nostalgic or romanticized
70. pr_____ad manuscript *v.* to examine written material and mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting; to read carefully and correct errors
71. missing hy____n *n.* a punctuation mark (-) used to connect two words or parts of a word, to indicate a compound word, or to separate syllables for clarity
72. possessive pr_____n *n.* a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"
73. di_____e whereabouts *v.* to reveal or make known something that was previously secret or confidential; to disclose information that was previously concealed or hidden

ANSWERS: 65. dieresis, 66. vernacular, 67. belie, 68. confer, 69. yore, 70. proofread, 71. hyphen, 72. pronoun, 73. divulge

74. a st__n look *adj.* serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude
75. te__e the children *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
76. render gra_____us service *adj.* given or done without charge or payment
77. birth and ant_____nts *n.* something that happened or existed before a particular event or situation; (adjective) preceding in time or order
78. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
79. eg_____us claim *adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
80. ma___c about things *adj.* behaving in an extremely wild or violent way; (noun) a person who is extremely enthusiastic about or devoted to a particular thing
81. an eg_____us error *adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
82. of___d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
83. ant_____nt conditions *n.* something that happened or existed before a particular event or situation; (adjective) preceding in time or order

ANSWERS: 74. stern, 75. tease, 76. gratuitous, 77. antecedent, 78. industrious, 79. egregious, 80. maniac, 81. egregious, 82. offend, 83. antecedent

84. inv_____ly polite

adv. in every case or on every occasion;
without exception

ANSWERS: 84. invariably

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The minority ____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

2. In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known _____.
n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

3. The cow lazily continued to ____ its tail while grazing in the field.
v. to move or swing back and forth or up and down in a lively or playful manner; to shake or quiver

4. I'm going to deny the _____ of his claim.
n. the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

5. The peaceful surroundings _____ the danger lurking just around the corner.
v. to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something

6. The two countries made a ____ to reduce their carbon emissions.
n. a formal agreement between two or more parties

7. The word "naïve" is an example of a _____ used in English to indicate that the two vowels should be pronounced separately.
n. a mark (¨) placed above a vowel, typically to indicate that it should be pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, creating a separate syllable

ANSWERS: 1. sect, 2. fable, 3. wag, 4. legitimacy, 5. belied, 6. pact, 7. dieresis

8. Strikes had also _____ the preceding weeks.
- v. to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
9. It was an _____ mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.
- adj. outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
10. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
- v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
11. After receiving the bad news, he was so _____ that he couldn't concentrate on anything else for the rest of the day.
- adj. deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
12. God _____ you should regret your marriage.
- v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
13. The poet wrote in the _____ of ordinary people.
- n. a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
14. This ad is intended to _____ a competing product.
- v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
15. The tabloids exposed the celebrity's _____ in cheating on their partner.
- n. an act or remark that shows a lack of good judgment, tact, or prudence; a behavior or disclosure that is considered inappropriate or unwise

ANSWERS: 8. punctuated, 9. egregious, 10. offended, 11. distraught, 12. forbid, 13. vernacular, 14. tease, 15. indiscretion

16. In English, personal _____ such as "he," "she," and "they" can replace a person's name to avoid repetition.
n. a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"
17. He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly _____ the smoke.
v. to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
18. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
19. He was a _____ for punctuality and would not tolerate anyone being late.
n. someone who insists on strict adherence to rules, details, or standards; a person who is meticulous or pedantic about something
20. She _____ arrived at the office early each day.
adv. in every case or on every occasion; without exception
21. We use _____ nouns when there is more than one of something
n. the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
22. Chemistry has long historical _____ including alchemy.
n. something that happened or existed before a particular event or situation; (adjective) preceding in time or order
23. In the days of _____ knights would ride on horseback and joust for honor.
n. a time long past, often nostalgic or romanticized

ANSWERS: 16. pronouns, 17. expelled, 18. industrious, 19. stickler, 20. invariably, 21. plural, 22. antecedents, 23. yore,

24. The older woman's _____ was slow and unsteady.

- n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion

25. The _____ violence in the movie was unnecessary and disturbing.

- adj.* given or done without charge or payment

26. 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

27. We _____ on a new project.

- v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

28. When learning a new language, understanding the use of _____ can be quite challenging.

- n.* a word or group of words that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence, indicating location, time, direction, or manner (e.g., in, on, at, above, before, after)

29. He felt _____ when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

- v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

30. The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a _____ scene from a movie.

- adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

31. Her poetry is full of beautiful _____ comparing nature to human emotion.

- n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"

ANSWERS: 24. gait, 25. gratuitous, 26. confer, 27. embarked, 28. prepositions, 29. betrayed, 30. poetic, 31. similes

32. He was a _____ for collecting stamps.

adj. behaving in an extremely wild or violent way; (noun) a person who is extremely enthusiastic about or devoted to a particular thing

33. The mistake was _____ and made in good faith.

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

34. Make sure to put a _____ between your phone number digits.

n. a punctuation mark (-) used to connect two words or parts of a word, to indicate a compound word, or to separate syllables for clarity

35. The students' antics did not amuse the _____ teacher.

adj. serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude

36. The police had to _____ the suspect after he became violent during the arrest.

v. to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses

37. The _____ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

38. The professor accused the student of being a _____ for constantly challenging the course material.

n. a person who rejects all religious, moral, and political beliefs and values; a person who believes life is meaningless and void of purpose

39. The flaws of the proposal were _____ apparent during the meeting.

adv. in a way that is obvious, conspicuous, or highly visible; in a manner that draws immediate attention or scrutiny

ANSWERS: 32. maniac, 33. unintentional, 34. hyphen, 35. stern, 36. restrain, 37. trump, 38. nihilist, 39. glaringly

40. The teacher asked the student to _____ the essay as part of the revision process
- v. to examine written material and mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting; to read carefully and correct errors
41. He promised not to _____ confidential information to anyone.
- v. to reveal or make known something that was previously secret or confidential; to disclose information that was previously concealed or hidden
42. I will _____ the title of the article to save space.
- v. to shorten a word or phrase by leaving out some of the letters or syllables; to make something shorter or more concise

ANSWERS: 40. proofread, 41. divulge, 42. abbreviate