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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jamie Bartlett: How the mysterious dark net is going mainstream | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- tor** *n.* a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain
synonym: rock, peak, crag
(1) **tor** hill, (2) rocky **tor**
We had an excellent view of the surrounding landscape from the top of the granite **tor**.
- meaningless** *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
synonym: pointless, absurd, senseless
(1) a **meaningless** endeavor, (2) do a **meaningless** task
This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.
- encrypt** *v.* to convert information or data into a code, thereby making it unreadable without a key or password; to conceal or obscure information in a way that makes it inaccessible to unauthorized persons
synonym: encode, cipher, scramble
(1) **encrypt** data, (2) **encrypt** message
To protect their sensitive information, many businesses **encrypt** their files.

fiend

n. an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something

synonym : monster, demon, devil

(1) **fiend** for chocolate, (2) fitness **fiend**

The **fiend** in the horror movie gave me nightmares for weeks.

whistleblower

n. a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people

synonym : informant, snitch

(1) anonymous **whistleblower**, (2) government **whistleblower**

The government has laws in place to protect **whistleblowers** from retaliation.

pariah

n. an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group

synonym : outcast, untouchable, reject

(1) **pariah** community, (2) treated as a **pariah**

Being a whistleblower can often lead to becoming a social **pariah** in some industries.

outcast

adj. excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

synonym : fugitive, friendless, vagabond

(1) discrimination against **outcast** people, (2) social **outcast**

He was an **outcast** from the neighboring village.

procure

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

synonym : obtain, acquire, secure

(1) **procure** a rare antique, (2) **procure** services

I need to **procure** some supplies for the upcoming project.

narcotic

n. a drug or substance that dulls the senses and induces a state of lethargy or sleep; a drug that is illegal or highly regulated for medical use due to its ability to cause addiction or harm

synonym: drug, sedative, opiate

(1) **narcotic** drug, (2) **narcotic** addiction

The doctor prescribed a **narcotic** painkiller to alleviate her chronic pain.

glossy

adj. having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish

synonym: shiny, polished, gleaming

(1) **glossy** lipstick, (2) **glossy** photograph

The magazine cover had a **glossy** finish, making the images shine.

crypto

n. short for "cryptocurrency," a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank; someone who hides their true political beliefs or agenda, often to advance their interests or to avoid backlash from society

synonym: digital currency, virtual currency

(1) **crypto** exchange, (2) **crypto** wallet

The rise of **crypto** has revolutionized the world of finance and investment.

Bitcoin

n. a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain

synonym: cryptocurrency, digital currency

(1) **Bitcoin** wallet, (2) **Bitcoin** transaction

Many businesses now accept **Bitcoin** as a form of payment.

pseudonym

n. a name someone, especially a writer, uses instead of their real name; a pen name

synonym: anonym, alias, nickname

(1) hide behind a **pseudonym**, (2) digital **pseudonym**

The author published these writings under a **pseudonym**.

allegiance

n. loyalty or faithfulness to a person, country, cause, or belief; a pledge or oath of loyalty

synonym: loyalty, devotion, faithfulness

(1) loyal **allegiance**, (2) show **allegiance**

The soldiers pledged their **allegiance** to their country.

posh

adj. elegant, fashionable, or luxurious, often to an excessive or ostentatious degree; associated with the upper classes or a high level of social status

synonym: elegant, fancy, luxurious

(1) **posh** district, (2) **posh** restaurant

The CEO's office was decorated in a **posh** and elegant style.

reckon

v. to think or believe something

synonym: regard, imagine, suppose

(1) hard to **reckon**, (2) **reckon** the company as a rival

He **reckons** that corruption was rampant in the regime.

inhospitable

adj. harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you

synonym: sterile, unfriendly, unwelcoming

(1) **inhospitable** environment, (2) in an **inhospitable** manner

He trekked across some of the most **inhospitable** mountains in the world.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym: bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

decentralize

v. to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones

synonym : deconcentrate, disperse, distribute

(1) **decentralize** authority, (2) **decentralize** organizational structure

We need to **decentralize** our data to recover quickly from a disaster.

cancel

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

synonym : suppressor, scrutineer, examiner

(1) **cancel** a book, (2) **cancel** a TV program

The newspaper editor decided to **cancel** the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

anonymity

n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information

synonym : obscurity, secrecy, namelessness

(1) comment with **anonymity**, (2) protect **anonymity**

The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their **anonymity** online.

unscrupulous

adj. having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair

synonym : unethical, immoral, dishonest

(1) **unscrupulous** conduct, (2) **unscrupulous** tactics
The **unscrupulous** salesman pressured me into buying a car I didn't want.

escrow

n. a financial arrangement in which a third party holds money or property on behalf of two other parties until a particular condition is met

synonym: deposit, stake, bond

(1) **escrow** account, (2) **escrow** agreement

The house purchase is in **escrow** until all the necessary paperwork is complete.

ledger

n. a book or computer program used to keep track of financial transactions; a collection of records or accounts kept in such a book or program

synonym: book, register, account

(1) financial **ledger**, (2) personal **ledger**

The auditor checked every entry in the **ledger** for accuracy.

tumble

v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance

synonym: fall, stumble, plummet

(1) **tumble** down the hill, (2) confidence **tumbles** as unemployment rates rose

The value of the currency **tumbled** against major international currencies.

jumble

v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things

synonym: mix, scramble, mess up

(1) **jumble** in some herbs and spices, (2) **jumble** together different colors

The children **jumbled** up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.

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.

druglord

n. an individual, often involved in organized crime, who controls and manages a significant illegal drug operation or network

synonym: kingpin, drug trafficker, narcotics dealer

(1) **druglord** empire, (2) the **druglord's** hideout

The authorities raided the compound, arresting the notorious **druglord**.

phenomenal

adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding

synonym: extraordinary, remarkable, impressive

(1) **phenomenal** success, (2) **phenomenal** growth

The athlete's **phenomenal** performance broke all previous records.

harbinger

n. a sign or indication of something that is about to happen, especially something bad or unpleasant; a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of something or someone

synonym: omen, sign, portent

(1) ominous **harbinger**, (2) a **harbinger** of spring

The change in weather was seen as a **harbinger** of the coming storm.

morph

v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another

synonym: alter, modify, transform

(1) **morph** into a different shape, (2) **morph** into something entirely different

This company **morphed** into an enterprise company.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym : intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

noughties

n. a colloquialism or nickname for the first decade of the 21st century (2000-2009), often used to describe cultural, political, or social trends of that era

synonym : 2000s

(1) **noughties** nostalgia, (2) **noughties** music

The fashion trends of the **noughties** are making a comeback in today's styles.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym : ordinary, everyday, prosaic

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

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

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

synonym : alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence

Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

impunity

n. exemption or freedom from punishment or harm; a state of being immune to negative consequences or legal accountability

synonym : immunity, exemption

(1) act with **impunity**, (2) enjoy **impunity**

The criminal was able to escape with **impunity**, despite committing multiple offenses.

Session 2: Spelling

1. digital ps_____ym *n.* a name someone, especially a writer, uses instead of their real name; a pen name
2. government whi_____wer *n.* a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people
3. phe_____al growth *adj.* extremely good or impressive; outstanding
4. discrimination against ou_____t people *adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
5. na_____ic drug *n.* a drug or substance that dulls the senses and induces a state of lethargy or sleep; a drug that is illegal or highly regulated for medical use due to its ability to cause addiction or harm
6. a mea_____ss endeavor *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
7. rocky t_r *n.* a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain
8. anonymous whi_____wer *n.* a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people

ANSWERS: 1. pseudonym, 2. whistleblower, 3. phenomenal, 4. outcast, 5. narcotic, 6. meaningless, 7. tor, 8. whistleblower

9. personal le___r *n.* a book or computer program used to keep track of financial transactions; a collection of records or accounts kept in such a book or program
10. p__h restaurant *adj.* elegant, fashionable, or luxurious, often to an excessive or ostentatious degree; associated with the upper classes or a high level of social status
11. hard to re___n *v.* to think or believe something
12. in_____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
13. en_____t data *v.* to convert information or data into a code, thereby making it unreadable without a key or password; to conceal or obscure information in a way that makes it inaccessible to unauthorized persons
14. a ha_____er of spring *n.* a sign or indication of something that is about to happen, especially something bad or unpleasant; a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of something or someone
15. mu_____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
16. gl___y photograph *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish

ANSWERS: 9. ledger, 10. posh, 11. reckon, 12. innovate, 13. encrypt, 14. harbinger, 15. mundane, 16. glossy

17. fitness fi__d *n.* an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
18. cr___o exchange *n.* short for "cryptocurrency," a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank; someone who hides their true political beliefs or agenda, often to advance their interests or to avoid backlash from society
19. comment with an_____ty *n.* the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
20. pa___h community *n.* an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
21. en_____t message *v.* to convert information or data into a code, thereby making it unreadable without a key or password; to conceal or obscure information in a way that makes it inaccessible to unauthorized persons
22. dec_____ize authority *v.* to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones
23. t_r hill *n.* a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain

ANSWERS: 17. fiend, 18. crypto, 19. anonymity, 20. pariah, 21. encrypt, 22. decentralize, 23. tor

24. Bi_____n wallet *n.* a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain
25. in____e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
26. in_____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
27. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
28. in an inh_____ble manner *adj.* harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you
29. na_____ic addiction *n.* a drug or substance that dulls the senses and induces a state of lethargy or sleep; a drug that is illegal or highly regulated for medical use due to its ability to cause addiction or harm
30. pr_____e services *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
31. mu_____e objects *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

ANSWERS: 24. Bitcoin, 25. invade, 26. innovate, 27. extraterrestrial, 28. inhospitable, 29. narcotic, 30. procure, 31. mundane

32. ce___r a book *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
33. act with im_____ty *n.* exemption or freedom from punishment or harm; a state of being immune to negative consequences or legal accountability
34. uns_____ous conduct *adj.* having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair
35. do a mea_____ss task *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
36. fi__d for chocolate *n.* an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
37. hide behind a ps_____ym *n.* a name someone, especially a writer, uses instead of their real name; a pen name
38. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
39. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
40. confidence tu___es as unemployment rates rose *v.* to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance
41. dr_____rd empire *n.* an individual, often involved in organized crime, who controls and manages a significant illegal drug operation or network

ANSWERS: 32. censor, 33. impunity, 34. unscrupulous, 35. meaningless, 36. fiend, 37. pseudonym, 38. industrious, 39. industrious, 40. tumble, 41. druglord

42. mo__h into something entirely different
43. financial le___r
44. treated as a pa___h
45. ju___e together different colors
46. inh_____ble environment
47. p__h district
48. ext_____ial planet
49. cr___o wallet
- v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
- n. a book or computer program used to keep track of financial transactions; a collection of records or accounts kept in such a book or program
- n. an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
- v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
- adj. harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you
- adj. elegant, fashionable, or luxurious, often to an excessive or ostentatious degree; associated with the upper classes or a high level of social status
- adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
- n. short for "cryptocurrency," a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank; someone who hides their true political beliefs or agenda, often to advance their interests or to avoid backlash from society

ANSWERS: 42. morph, 43. ledger, 44. pariah, 45. jumble, 46. inhospitable, 47. posh, 48. extraterrestrial, 49. crypto

50. Bi_____n transaction
n. a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain
51. protect an_____ty
n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
52. the cr_____or's claims
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
53. social ou_____t
adj. excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
54. bankrupt cr_____or
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
55. phe_____al success
adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding
56. pr_____e a rare antique
v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
57. ominous ha_____er
n. a sign or indication of something that is about to happen, especially something bad or unpleasant; a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of something or someone
58. tu_____e down the hill
v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance

ANSWERS: 50. Bitcoin, 51. anonymity, 52. creditor, 53. outcast, 54. creditor, 55. phenomenal, 56. procure, 57. harbinger, 58. tumble

59. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
60. es___w agreement *n.* a financial arrangement in which a third party holds money or property on behalf of two other parties until a particular condition is met
61. no_____es nostalgia *n.* a colloquialism or nickname for the first decade of the 21st century (2000-2009), often used to describe cultural, political, or social trends of that era
62. mo___h into a different shape *v.* to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
63. no_____es music *n.* a colloquialism or nickname for the first decade of the 21st century (2000-2009), often used to describe cultural, political, or social trends of that era
64. gl___y lipstick *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
65. loyal all_____ce *n.* loyalty or faithfulness to a person, country, cause, or belief; a pledge or oath of loyalty
66. uns_____ous tactics *adj.* having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair
67. ce___r a TV program *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

ANSWERS: 59. invade, 60. escrow, 61. noughties, 62. morph, 63. noughties, 64. glossy, 65. allegiance, 66. unscrupulous, 67. censor

68. show all_____ce *n.* loyalty or faithfulness to a person, country, cause, or belief; a pledge or oath of loyalty
69. re___n the company as a rival *v.* to think or believe something
70. es___w account *n.* a financial arrangement in which a third party holds money or property on behalf of two other parties until a particular condition is met
71. the dr_____rd's hideout *n.* an individual, often involved in organized crime, who controls and manages a significant illegal drug operation or network
72. enjoy im_____ty *n.* exemption or freedom from punishment or harm; a state of being immune to negative consequences or legal accountability
73. ju___e in some herbs and spices *v.* to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
74. dec_____ize organizational structure *v.* to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones

ANSWERS: 68. allegiance, 69. reckon, 70. escrow, 71. druglord, 72. impunity, 73. jumble, 74. decentralize

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The change in weather was seen as a _____ of the coming storm.
n. a sign or indication of something that is about to happen, especially something bad or unpleasant; a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of something or someone
2. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
3. He _____ that corruption was rampant in the regime.
v. to think or believe something
4. The children _____ up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.
v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
5. The soldiers pledged their _____ to their country.
n. loyalty or faithfulness to a person, country, cause, or belief; a pledge or oath of loyalty
6. He trekked across some of the most _____ mountains in the world.
adj. harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you
7. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.
adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

ANSWERS: 1. harbinger, 2. meaningless, 3. reckons, 4. jumbled, 5. allegiance, 6. inhospitable, 7. mundane

8. We need to _____ our data to recover quickly from a disaster.
- v.* to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones
9. The CEO's office was decorated in a _____ and elegant style.
- adj.* elegant, fashionable, or luxurious, often to an excessive or ostentatious degree; associated with the upper classes or a high level of social status
10. The newspaper editor decided to _____ the controversial headline to avoid backlash.
- n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
11. The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their _____ online.
- n.* the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
12. The fashion trends of the _____ are making a comeback in today's styles.
- n.* a colloquialism or nickname for the first decade of the 21st century (2000-2009), often used to describe cultural, political, or social trends of that era
13. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
14. We had an excellent view of the surrounding landscape from the top of the granite _____.
- n.* a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain

ANSWERS: 8. decentralize, 9. posh, 10. censor, 11. anonymity, 12. noughties, 13. creditor, 14. tor

15. The doctor prescribed a _____ painkiller to alleviate her chronic pain.
n. a drug or substance that dulls the senses and induces a state of lethargy or sleep; a drug that is illegal or highly regulated for medical use due to its ability to cause addiction or harm
16. The athlete's _____ performance broke all previous records.
adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding
17. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
18. The value of the currency _____ against major international currencies.
v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance
19. Being a whistleblower can often lead to becoming a social _____ in some industries.
n. an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
20. The _____ in the horror movie gave me nightmares for weeks.
n. an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
21. This company _____ into an enterprise company.
v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
22. The authorities raided the compound, arresting the notorious _____.
n. an individual, often involved in organized crime, who controls and manages a significant illegal drug operation or network

ANSWERS: 15. narcotic, 16. phenomenal, 17. industrious, 18. tumbled, 19. pariah, 20. fiend, 21. morphed, 22. druglord

23. To protect their sensitive information, many businesses _____ their files.
- v.* to convert information or data into a code, thereby making it unreadable without a key or password; to conceal or obscure information in a way that makes it inaccessible to unauthorized persons
24. The government has laws in place to protect _____ from retaliation.
- n.* a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people
25. The author published these writings under a _____.
- n.* a name someone, especially a writer, uses instead of their real name; a pen name
26. Many businesses now accept _____ as a form of payment.
- n.* a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain
27. The rise of _____ has revolutionized the world of finance and investment.
- n.* short for "cryptocurrency," a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank; someone who hides their true political beliefs or agenda, often to advance their interests or to avoid backlash from society
28. The magazine cover had a _____ finish, making the images shine.
- adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish

ANSWERS: 23. encrypt, 24. whistleblowers, 25. pseudonym, 26. Bitcoin, 27. crypto, 28. glossy

29. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.
- adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
30. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
- v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
31. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
32. The _____ salesman pressured me into buying a car I didn't want.
- adj.* having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair
33. The auditor checked every entry in the _____ for accuracy.
- n.* a book or computer program used to keep track of financial transactions; a collection of records or accounts kept in such a book or program
34. The house purchase is in _____ until all the necessary paperwork is complete.
- n.* a financial arrangement in which a third party holds money or property on behalf of two other parties until a particular condition is met
35. The criminal was able to escape with _____ despite committing multiple offenses.
- n.* exemption or freedom from punishment or harm; a state of being immune to negative consequences or legal accountability

ANSWERS: 29. extraterrestrial, 30. innovate, 31. invade, 32. unscrupulous, 33. ledger, 34. escrow, 35. impunity,

36. He was an _____ from the neighboring village.

adj. excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

37. I need to _____ some supplies for the upcoming project.

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

ANSWERS: 36. outcast, 37. procure