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Shonda Rhimes: My year of saying yes to everything | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

harp

n. a musical instrument consisting of a triangular frame with strings stretched across it, played by plucking the strings with the fingers

synonym : lyre, psaltery, clavichord

(1) **harp** strings, (2) Japanese **harp**

She began to play a beautiful melody on her **harp**.

inexplicable

adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling

synonym : incomprehensible, mysterious, unaccountable

(1) **inexplicable** event, (2) **inexplicable** decision

The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was **inexplicable**.

waitress

n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe

synonym : server, attendant, waitperson

(1) **waitress** at a restaurant, (2) tip the **waitress**

The friendly **waitress** brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.

sip

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

synonym : taste, sample, drink

(1) **sip** a drink, (2) take a **sip** of beer

He **sipped** his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

vow

v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn

synonym : promise, pledge, swear

(1) **vow** allegiance to the new king, (2) **vow** never to give up

They **vowed** to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.

campfire

n. an outdoor fire used for cooking, warmth, or light, often made by camping or in rural areas; a gathering or social event around such a fire

synonym : bonfire, blaze, fire pit

(1) **campfire** story, (2) roast marshmallows around the **campfire**

We sat around the **campfire** and told stories late into the night.

peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

synonym : beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

exhilarating

adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

synonym : thrilling, exciting, stimulating

(1) an **exhilarating** drink, (2) **exhilarating** view
Bungee jumping was an **exhilarating** experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
synonym: agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep
Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

judicious

adj. having or exhibiting sound judgment; wise or prudent in decision-making; characterized by careful consideration or thought

synonym: wise, prudent, sensible

(1) **judicious** use of resources, (2) exhibit **judicious** behavior

It's important to make **judicious** decisions when it comes to your finances.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves
He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

workaholic

n. a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively

synonym: workhorse, drudge

(1) **workaholic** habits, (2) self-proclaimed **workaholic**
The company's founder was a notorious **workaholic** who spent every waking hour building the business.

overused

adj. used too often or too much, to the point of becoming clichéd; lacking originality

synonym: overworked, overutilized, exhausted

(1) **overused** common, (2) **overused** cliché

The concept of time travel has become **overused** in science fiction and fantasy, with many movies and books exploring the idea.

overdo

v. to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert

synonym: overwork, exaggerate, hyperbolize

(1) **overdo** exercise, (2) **overdo** caffeine

If you **overdo** the laundry detergent, it can damage your clothes.

nanny

n. a caregiver, usually a woman, who provides child care services in the home of the children's parents or guardians, either on a part-time or full-time basis

synonym: childcare provider, babysitter, nurse

(1) part-time **nanny**, (2) professional **nanny**

She works as a **nanny** for a family with two young children.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

wan

adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy

synonym: pale, pallid, ashen

(1) **wan** light, (2) a **wan** smile

His **wan** complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.

mourning

n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

synonym : grieving, sorrow, lamentation

(1) **mourning** period, (2) **mourning** ritual

She wore black clothing as a symbol of **mourning** for her grandmother.

crayon

n. a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring

synonym : chalk, pastel, (verb) draw

(1) **crayon** drawing, (2) **crayon** her coloring books

The teacher handed out several different colored **crayons** to each student.

loosen

v. to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax

synonym : relax, slacken, untie

(1) **loosen** grip, (2) **loosen** knot

Please **loosen** the screws on the back panel so we can access the inside of the machine.

instantaneous

adj. occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment

synonym : immediate, prompt, rapid

(1) **instantaneous** reaction, (2) **instantaneous** message

The new software provides **instantaneous** results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym : crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

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

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

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

delirious

adj. experiencing a state of mental confusion or excitement characterized by a lack of coherence, often due to a high fever, drugs, or alcohol; wildly irrational or disoriented

synonym: confused, incoherent, irrational

(1) **delirious** with joy, (2) **delirious** fan

The patient became **delirious** due to the high fever and began hallucinating.

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.

itch v. to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
synonym : scratch, tingle, irritate
(1) **itch** constantly, (2) **itch** to speak
I can't stop **itching** my arm because of the mosquito bite.

ladybug n. a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects
synonym : ladybird, lady beetle
(1) **ladybug** on a leaf, (2) **ladybug** larvae
Some species of **ladybugs** have a strong, unpleasant smell and are also called stink bugs.

shorthand n. a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
synonym : stenography, speedwriting, tachygraphy
(1) learn **shorthand**, (2) write in **shorthand**
The secretary's **shorthand** was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

indulge v. to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
synonym : pamper, gratify, entertain
(1) **indulge** in debauchery, (2) **indulge** children
She **indulged** in a warm bath after a long day at work.

titanic *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
synonym : colossal, massive, immense
(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

refuel

v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.

(1) **refuel** air-to-air, (2) **refuel** bombers in flight

Our plane stopped in the country to **refuel**.

floodgate

n. a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion

synonym: dam, barrier, gate

(1) closing of the **floodgate**, (2) loose **floodgates** of grief

The company's innovative product release opened the **floodgates** for competitors to follow suit.

rover

n. a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon

synonym: vehicle, robot, explorer

(1) **rover** mission, (2) lunar **rover**

The **rover** on Mars is gathering data on the planet's surface and sending it back to Earth.

quiver

v. to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion

synonym: shake, tremble, shiver

(1) **quiver** in the breeze, (2) **quiver** with excitement

The archer's hands **quivered** as he aimed the arrow at the target.

cocoon

n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates

synonym: chrysalis, pupa, case

(1) **cocoon** silk, (2) a dried **cocoon**

The caterpillar spins a **cocoon** around itself before turning into a butterfly.

Session 2: Spelling

1. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
2. ins_____ous reaction *adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
3. the members of a military tr__p *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
4. lunar ro__r *n.* a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
5. lo___n grip *v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
6. loose fl_____tes of grief *n.* a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion
7. in_____e children *v.* to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
8. qu___r in the breeze *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
9. write in sh_____nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

ANSWERS: 1. humming, 2. instantaneous, 3. troop, 4. rover, 5. loosen, 6. floodgate, 7. indulge, 8. quiver, 9. shorthand

10. ine_____ble event *adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
11. ov_____ed common *adj.* used too often or too much, to the point of becoming cliched; lacking originality
12. v_w allegiance to the new king *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
13. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
14. ti_____c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
15. la_____g larvae *n.* a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects
16. cr_____n drawing *n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring
17. cr_____n her coloring books *n.* a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring
18. re___l air-to-air *v.* to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.

ANSWERS: 10. inexplicable, 11. overused, 12. vow, 13. excite, 14. titanic, 15. ladybug, 16. crayon, 17. crayon, 18. refuel

19. an exh_____ing drink *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill
20. re___l bombers in flight *v.* to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
21. co___n silk *n.* a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
22. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
23. ine_____ble decision *adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
24. ins_____ous message *adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
25. hu_____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
26. i__h constantly *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
27. qu___r with excitement *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
28. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
29. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
30. p__k on the cheek *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

ANSWERS: 19. exhilarating, 20. refuel, 21. cocoon, 22. confuse, 23. inexplicable, 24. instantaneous, 25. humming, 26. itch, 27. quiver, 28. creep, 29. humiliate, 30. peck

31. wor_____ic habits *n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively
32. a w_n smile *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
33. self-proclaimed wor_____ic *n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively
34. i__h to speak *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
35. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
36. Japanese h__p *n.* a musical instrument consisting of a triangular frame with strings stretched across it, played by plucking the strings with the fingers
37. the wh_____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
38. w_n light *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
39. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
40. ti_____c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 31. workaholic, 32. wan, 33. workaholic, 34. itch, 35. electrify, 36. harp, 37. whisper, 38. wan, 39. humiliate, 40. titanic

50. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
51. cr__p along the leaf *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
52. in_____e in debauchery *v.* to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
53. ov___o exercise *v.* to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert
54. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
55. professional na__y *n.* a caregiver, usually a woman, who provides child care services in the home of the children's parents or guardians, either on a part-time or full-time basis
56. di_____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
57. ju_____us use of resources *adj.* having or exhibiting sound judgment; wise or prudent in decision-making; characterized by careful consideration or thought
58. ov___o caffeine *v.* to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert

ANSWERS: 50. electrify, 51. creep, 52. indulge, 53. overdo, 54. quitter, 55. nanny, 56. disturb, 57. judicious, 58. overdo

59. closing of the fl_____te *n.* a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion
60. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
61. roast marshmallows around the
ca_____re *n.* an outdoor fire used for cooking, warmth, or light, often made by camping or in rural areas; a gathering or social event around such a fire
62. de_____us with joy *adj.* experiencing a state of mental confusion or excitement characterized by a lack of coherence, often due to a high fever, drugs, or alcohol; wildly irrational or disoriented
63. wa_____ss at a restaurant *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
64. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
65. exhibit ju_____us behavior *adj.* having or exhibiting sound judgment; wise or prudent in decision-making; characterized by careful consideration or thought
66. mo_____ng ritual *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
67. take a s_p of beer *v.* to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

ANSWERS: 59. floodgate, 60. quitter, 61. campfire, 62. delirious, 63. waitress, 64. confuse, 65. judicious, 66. mourning, 67. sip

68. v_w never to give up *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
69. tip the wa____ss *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
70. part-time na__y *n.* a caregiver, usually a woman, who provides child care services in the home of the children's parents or guardians, either on a part-time or full-time basis
71. a dried co___n *n.* a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
72. ro__r mission *n.* a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
73. s_p a drink *v.* to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
74. answer in a wh____r *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
75. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
76. exh_____ing view *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill
77. ca____re story *n.* an outdoor fire used for cooking, warmth, or light, often made by camping or in rural areas; a gathering or social event around such a fire
78. di____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

ANSWERS: 68. vow, 69. waitress, 70. nanny, 71. cocoon, 72. rover, 73. sip, 74. whisper, 75. excite, 76. exhilarating, 77. campfire, 78. disturb

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Some species of _____ have a strong, unpleasant smell and are also called stink bugs.
 - n.* a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects

2. Please _____ the screws on the back panel so we can access the inside of the machine.
 - v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax

3. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
 - v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

4. The company's founder was a notorious _____ who spent every waking hour building the business.
 - n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively

5. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
 - v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

6. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
 - n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

7. The concept of time travel has become _____ in science fiction and fantasy, with many movies and books exploring the idea.
 - adj.* used too often or too much, to the point of becoming cliched; lacking originality

ANSWERS: 1. ladybugs, 2. loosen, 3. creeps, 4. workaholic, 5. disturb, 6. quitter, 7. overused

8. The wood_____ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
9. The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was _____.
adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
10. The friendly _____ brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.
n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
11. The archer's hands _____ as he aimed the arrow at the target.
v. to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
12. The teacher handed out several different colored _____ to each student.
n. a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk, or other material used for drawing or coloring; (verb) to draw or color with crayons, which are sticks of colored wax, chalk, or charcoal used for drawing or coloring
13. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
14. His ___ complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.
adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
15. She works as a _____ for a family with two young children.
n. a caregiver, usually a woman, who provides child care services in the home of the children's parents or guardians, either on a part-time or full-time basis

ANSWERS: 8. pecker, 9. inexplicable, 10. waitress, 11. quivered, 12. crayons, 13. humiliated, 14. wan, 15. nanny

16. The secretary's _____ was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.
- n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
17. The _____ on Mars is gathering data on the planet's surface and sending it back to Earth.
- n.* a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
18. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.
- v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
19. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
- n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
20. The new software provides _____ results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.
- adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
21. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
22. I can't stop _____ my arm because of the mosquito bite.
- v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it

ANSWERS: 16. shorthand, 17. rover, 18. whispered, 19. troop, 20. instantaneous, 21. electrify, 22. itching

23. The _____ ship sank on its maiden voyage.

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

24. He _____ his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

25. She _____ in a warm bath after a long day at work.

v. to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat

26. Her remarks _____ the debate.

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

27. The caterpillar spins a _____ around itself before turning into a butterfly.

n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates

28. Our plane stopped in the country to _____.

v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.

29. We sat around the _____ and told stories late into the night.

n. an outdoor fire used for cooking, warmth, or light, often made by camping or in rural areas; a gathering or social event around such a fire

30. The patient became _____ due to the high fever and began hallucinating.

adj. experiencing a state of mental confusion or excitement characterized by a lack of coherence, often due to a high fever, drugs, or alcohol; wildly irrational or disoriented

ANSWERS: 23. titanic, 24. sipped, 25. indulged, 26. confused, 27. cocoon, 28. refuel, 29. campfire, 30. delirious

31. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
32. She wore black clothing as a symbol of _____ for her grandmother.
n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
33. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
34. Bungee jumping was an _____ experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.
adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill
35. It's important to make _____ decisions when it comes to your finances.
adj. having or exhibiting sound judgment; wise or prudent in decision-making; characterized by careful consideration or thought
36. She began to play a beautiful melody on her _____.
n. a musical instrument consisting of a triangular frame with strings stretched across it, played by plucking the strings with the fingers
37. They _____ to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.
v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
38. The company's innovative product release opened the _____ for competitors to follow suit.
n. a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion

ANSWERS: 31. excited, 32. mourning, 33. humming, 34. exhilarating, 35. judicious, 36. harp, 37. vowed, 38. floodgates

39. If you _____ the laundry detergent, it can damage your clothes.

- v. to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert

ANSWERS: 39. overdo