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Megan Washington: Why I live in mortal dread of public speaking | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

topic

n. a subject that is being discussed or written about
synonym : subject, theme, issue

(1) a serious **topic**, (2) the **topic** of the book

The **topic** of the discussion was the current state of the economy.

inextricable

adj. unable to be separated or escaped from
synonym : inescapable, inseparable, entangled

(1) an **inextricable** part of life, (2) form an **inextricable** bond

The knot was **inextricable**, and she had to use scissors to cut it.

stutter

v. to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech

synonym : stammer, falter, stumble

(1) **stutter** speech, (2) **stutter** out an apology

He tends to **stutter** when he gets nervous, making it difficult for others to understand him.

assume

v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance

synonym : guess, presume, suppose

(1) **assume** a lousy attitude to his boss, (2) **assume** an important role

The following example **assumes** that the capacity of each battery is the same.

sphere

n. a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity

synonym : ball, globe, scope

(1) **sphere** of influence, (2) business **sphere**

The **sphere** of the earth is divided into several layers including the crust, mantle, and core.

mortal

adj. subject to death; unrelenting and deadly

synonym : deathly, perishable, non-eternal

(1) a **mortal** combat, (2) this **mortal** life

All humans are **mortal** and will eventually die.

dread

v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

synonym : fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old

We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

explicit

adj. stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt

synonym : clear, unambiguous, unequivocal

(1) **explicit** content, (2) **explicit** instructions

The movie had an **explicit** sex scene that some viewers might find offensive.

prime

adj. main or most important; basic

synonym: excellent, exceptional, premium

(1) **prime** number, (2) deputy **prime** minister

After a thorough investigation, she has been named as the **prime** suspect.

impediment

n. a hindrance or obstruction in doing something

synonym: obstacle, hindrance, barrier

(1) have a speech **impediment**, (2) biological **impediment**

The language barrier was an **impediment** to their communication.

horror

n. intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying

synonym: fear, terror, dread

(1) **horror** movie, (2) **horror-struck** look

The stories of war crimes filled her with **horror**.

hesitate

v. to pause decision before saying or doing something

synonym: waver, pause, waffle

(1) **hesitate** for a moment, (2) **hesitate** to ask for help

Please do not **hesitate** to call us.

weird

adj. extraordinary, unexpected, or difficult to explain

synonym: bizarre, creepy, peculiar

(1) a **weird** dress, (2) the state of being **weird**

My computer has been acting **weird** recently.

noun

n. a word that generally functions as the name of a specific object or set of objects

(1) **noun** phrase, (2) proper **noun**

In some foreign languages, the gender of **nouns** exists.

clunky

adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

synonym: clumsy, bulky, burdensome

(1) **clunky** phrasing, (2) **clunky** robot

Refined character portrayal makes up for **clunky** gameplay.

develop

v. to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

synonym: evolve, progress, advance

(1) **develop** a strategy, (2) **develop** a skill

We must **develop** a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

loophole

n. a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties

synonym: loophole, escape clause, technicality

(1) legal **loophole**, (2) finding a **loophole**

A **loophole** in the tax code allows some people to avoid paying taxes legally.

brain

n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

synonym: intellect, mind, encephalon

(1) basic **brain** function, (2) permanent **brain** damage

X-rays revealed a small tumor in his **brain**.

jazz

n. a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression

synonym: swing, blues, bebop

(1) **jazz** club, (2) a school **jazz** band

He listened to **jazz** music to relax after a long day at work.

independence

n. freedom from another's or others' control or influence

synonym: freedom, liberty, autonomy

(1) financial **independence**, (2) **independence** ceremony
There is nothing more valuable than **independence** and freedom.

introduction

n. a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market

synonym : initiation, preamble, prologue

(1) **introduction** education, (2) self- **introduction**

The **introduction** to the new class was informative and engaging.

roll

v. to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side

synonym : spin, swirl, wheel

(1) **roll** a ball, (2) **roll** down his cheeks

He was exhausted and **rolled** into bed as soon as he got home.

vamp

n. the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece

synonym : seductress, temptress, enchantress

(1) **vamp** designs, (2) seductive **vamp** neckline

He was trying to repair the **vamp** of his shoe, which had become detached from the sole.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

synonym : pierce, adhere, stay

(1) **stick** a key in a lock, (2) fire **stick**

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop

out.

awkward

adj. making you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed; causing inconvenience or difficulty

synonym: embarrassing, discomfiting, clumsy

(1) an **awkward** expression, (2) an **awkward** date

The **awkward** design of the interface made the operation difficult.

uncomfortable

adj. providing or feeling physical discomfort or slight pain

synonym: comfortless, discomfiting, painful

(1) an **uncomfortable** silence, (2) with an **uncomfortable** face

His abusive words made me **uncomfortable**.

vibe

n. an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood

synonym: atmosphere, aura, feeling

(1) party **vibe**, (2) chill **vibe**

The music festival had a great **vibe**, with everyone enjoying the performances and having a good time.

instance

n. a particular example or single occurrence of something

synonym: example, sample, illustration

(1) for **instance**, (2) notable **instance**

These articles cite five **instances** of climate change.

therapy

n. the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.

synonym: antidote, medicine, treatment

(1) **therapy** for a patient, (2) field of gene **therapy**

I underwent aversion **therapy** for my addiction to alcohol.

technique

n. a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill

synonym: approach, procedure, strategy

(1) a **technique** in martial arts, (2) the **technique** applied to construction

Jockey's superior **technique** brought him victory.

kindergarten

n. a school or class for young children, usually between the ages of four and six

synonym: preschool, nursery school, daycare

(1) **kindergarten** class, (2) **kindergarten** teacher

The **kindergarten** students were having a good time playing with toys.

serene

adj. calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries

synonym: calm, peaceful, tranquil

(1) **serene** landscape, (2) a **serene** atmosphere

The **serene** sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.

calm

adj. not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves

synonym: quiet, peaceful, tranquility

(1) **calm** sea, (2) **calm** manner

It was the first time in a long time that I felt truly **calm** and at peace.

panel

n. a square or rectangular and flat piece of something that forms a distinct section or component of something; a small group of specialists who discuss particular topics or give their advice or opinion about something

synonym: board, commission, discussion

(1) **panel** discussion, (2) cost of solar **panels**

A **panel** of economic advisers from the United States visited the country to help rebuild its economy.

economy

n. the system by which a country or region produces, manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of

an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel

synonym : finance, trade, business

(1) **economy** of scale, (2) **economy** class

The **economy** of the country is struggling due to the recent political instability.

on-air

adj. relating to or occurring during a live broadcast on radio or television; being broadcast

synonym : broadcasting, live, airing

(1) **on-air** personality, (2) **on-air** interview

The radio host was nervous about going **on-air** for the first time.

paramount

adj. more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

synonym : central, major, crucial

(1) the lord **paramount**, (2) **paramount** to all the others

This country became a country of **paramount** geostrategic importance to us.

platform

n. the raised flat space close to the track at a train station where passengers get on or off the train; (technology) a computational or digital environment in which a piece of software is executed

synonym : stage, podium, forum

(1) an arrival **platform**, (2) a digital **platform** for enterprise

The speaker mounted the **platform** and started to speak.

honesty

n. the quality of being truthful, sincere, and morally upright; adherence to moral and ethical principles

synonym : sincerity, integrity, truthfulness

(1) **honesty** policy, (2) **honesty** box

A culture of **honesty** in the workplace leads to better communication and productivity.

cheat

v. to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws

synonym: deceive, swindle, defraud

(1) **cheat** on my taxes, (2) **cheat** in a game

Even though he knew it was wrong, he **cheated** on the exam.

mythology

n. a collection of myths (= traditional stories accepted as history) or the study of myths

synonym: folklore, legend, fable

(1) tale from **mythology**, (2) ancient **mythology**

He studies Greek and Roman **mythology**.

myth

n. an ancient story or set of stories accepted as history, especially explaining the worldview of a people

synonym: fable, legend, lore

(1) the **myth** of an old religion, (2) perpetuate a **myth**

With the financial bubble bursting, the **myth** of economic growth in investment banking collapsed.

miraculous

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

synonym: amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

synapse

n. the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it

(1) **synapse** circuit, (2) end at a **synapse**

Animals transmit nerve impulses through **synapses**.

function

n. the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

synonym: purpose, mapping, job

(1) **function** properly, (2) immune **function**

The brain is an incredibly complex organ that controls the body's **function**.

singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

relief

n. a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced

synonym: remedy, consolation, alleviation

(1) tax **relief**, (2) sigh of **relief**

He devoted his life to establishing a humanitarian **relief** fund.

fluent

adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

synonym: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

comprehensive

adj. complete and including all or everything necessary

synonym: complete, encyclopedic, thorough

(1) a **comprehensive** explanation, (2) conduct a **comprehensive** survey

We have a **comprehensive** grasp of this topic.

intention

n. something you want to do and are going to do

synonym: purpose, connotation, will

(1) **intention** behind his decision, (2) clear **intention**

Our CEO's **intentions** are always transparent and straightforward.

slightly

adv. in a small degree or extent; a little

synonym : barely, narrowly, scarcely

(1) increase **slightly**, (2) **slightly** alkaline soils

He moved his body **slightly** to the left.

angel

n. a spiritual being believed to be a messenger of God often depicted as having wings and a halo

synonym : messenger, spirit, celestial being

(1) **angel** investors, (2) fallen **angel**

As she lay on her deathbed, a bright light appeared, and she saw a holy **angel** standing at the foot of her bed.

halo

n. a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse

synonym : aura, nimbus, glory

(1) **halo** effect, (2) **halo** around the moon

The painting of the saint had a golden **halo** surrounding her head, symbolizing her holiness.

pale

adj. having skin that is very light colored; lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

synonym : sallow, faint, ashen

(1) a **pale** complexion, (2) **pale** pink

She turned **pale** when she heard the news.

glow

v. to give out a steady, strong light

synonym : shine, radiate, beam

(1) **glow** a pale orange, (2) **glow** gold in the light

The sun was setting, and the sky **glowed** with beautiful colors.

grace

n. a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal

synonym : charm, poise, elegance

(1) say a **grace**, (2) end of the **grace** period

The old oak tree stood with **grace** and majesty in the park's center.

joker

n. a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild

synonym : trickster, prankster, comedian

(1) **joker** card, (2) **joker** costume

The office clown constantly played the **joker**, making his coworkers laugh with his silly antics.

ace

n. a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

synonym : expert, master, champion

(1) tennis **ace**, (2) **ace** in the hole

He was an **ace** at playing poker and often won the game.

hell

n. the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

synonym : inferno, agony, misery

(1) run like **hell**, (2) **hell** broke loose

The battlefield became **hell** on earth.

swear

v. to make a solemn promise or vow; to use rude or offensive language

synonym : declare, assert, curse

(1) **swear** an oath, (2) **swear** a blue streak

I **swear** I didn't mean to break your vase.

pace

n. the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes

synonym : gait, rate, speed

(1) at your own **pace**, (2) the runner's **pace**

The economy is growing at a supercharged **pace**.

idle

adj. not working hard or not having a job; useless

synonym : inactive, jobless, inoperative

(1) live an **idle** life, (2) **idle** capital

There are several **idle** machines in the factory because of the decreased orders.

ugly

adj. unattractive in appearance; unpleasant to look at

synonym : unattractive, unsightly, repulsive

(1) an **ugly** sound, (2) **ugly** building

The **ugly** truth was that he had been lying to her for months.

sham

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

synonym : bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

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

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

Session 2: Spelling

1. fire st__k
v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
2. fl___t Chinese
adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
3. a te_____ue in martial arts
n. a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill
4. jo__r costume
n. a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild
5. int_____ion education
n. a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market
6. a se___e atmosphere
adj. calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
7. tale from my_____gy
n. a collection of myths (= traditional stories accepted as history) or the study of myths

ANSWERS: 1. stick, 2. fluent, 3. technique, 4. joker, 5. introduction, 6. serene, 7. mythology

- | | |
|---|---|
| 8. biological imp_____nt | <i>n.</i> a hindrance or obstruction in doing something |
| 9. self-int_____ion | <i>n.</i> a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market |
| 10. an aw_____d date | <i>adj.</i> making you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed; causing inconvenience or difficulty |
| 11. cl____y phrasing | <i>adj.</i> heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement |
| 12. se____e landscape | <i>adj.</i> calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries |
| 13. the te_____ue applied to construction | <i>n.</i> a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill |
| 14. st__k a key in a lock | <i>v.</i> to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material |
| 15. deputy pr__e minister | <i>adj.</i> main or most important; basic |
| 16. end of the gr__e period | <i>n.</i> a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal |

ANSWERS: 8. impediment, 9. introduction, 10. awkward, 11. clunky, 12. serene, 13. technique, 14. stick, 15. prime, 16. grace

17. cl___y robot *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
18. sy_____e circuit *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
19. ec_____y class *n.* the system by which a country or region produces manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel
20. chill v___e *n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood
21. a mo___l combat *adj.* subject to death; unrelenting and deadly
22. a school j__z band *n.* a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression
23. de_____p a strategy *v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

ANSWERS: 17. clunky, 18. synapse, 19. economy, 20. vibe, 21. mortal, 22. jazz, 23. develop

24. ex____it instructions *adj.* stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt
25. the state of being we__d *adj.* extraordinary, unexpected, or difficult to explain
26. tennis a_e *n.* a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field
27. in a fl___t tone *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
28. a mir_____us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
29. fu_____on properly *n.* the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose
30. h__o around the moon *n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse
31. a_e in the hole *n.* a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

ANSWERS: 24. explicit, 25. weird, 26. ace, 27. fluent, 28. miraculous, 29. function, 30. halo, 31. ace

32. kin_____ten teacher *n.* a school or class for young children, usually between the ages of four and six
33. dr__d failure *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
34. in_____on behind his decision *n.* something you want to do and are going to do
35. pa__l discussion *n.* a square or rectangular and flat piece of something that forms a distinct section or component of something; a small group of specialists who discuss particular topics or give their advice or opinion about something
36. go through a mir_____us change *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
37. u__y building *adj.* unattractive in appearance; unpleasant to look at
38. party v__e *n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood
39. dr__d getting old *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
40. notable in_____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
41. p__e pink *adj.* having skin that is very light colored; lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

ANSWERS: 32. kindergarten, 33. dread, 34. intention, 35. panel, 36. miraculous, 37. ugly, 38. vibe, 39. dread, 40. instance, 41. pale

42. an ine_____ble part of life *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
43. ho_____y policy *n.* the quality of being truthful, sincere, and morally upright; adherence to moral and ethical principles
44. ho_____y box *n.* the quality of being truthful, sincere, and morally upright; adherence to moral and ethical principles
45. v__p designs *n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece
46. c__m sea *adj.* not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves
47. on____r personality *adj.* relating to or occurring during a live broadcast on radio or television; being broadcast
48. field of gene th_____y *n.* the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.
49. ind_____nce ceremony *n.* freedom from another's or others' control or influence
50. form an ine_____ble bond *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
51. proper n__n *n.* a word that generally functions as the name of a specific object or set of objects
52. legal lo_____le *n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties

ANSWERS: 42. inextricable, 43. honesty, 44. honesty, 45. vamp, 46. calm, 47. on-air, 48. therapy, 49. independence, 50. inextricable, 51. noun, 52. loophole

53. g__w gold in the light *v.* to give out a steady, strong light
54. sigh of re___f *n.* a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced
55. an u__y sound *adj.* unattractive in appearance; unpleasant to look at
56. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
57. ancient my_____gy *n.* a collection of myths (= traditional stories accepted as history) or the study of myths
58. ch__t in a game *v.* to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws
59. ex_____it content *adj.* stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt
60. a we__d dress *adj.* extraordinary, unexpected, or difficult to explain
61. si__e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
62. sw__r a blue streak *v.* to make a solemn promise or vow; to use rude or offensive language
63. de_____p a skill *v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

ANSWERS: 53. glow, 54. relief, 55. ugly, 56. sham, 57. mythology, 58. cheat, 59. explicit, 60. weird, 61. singe, 62. swear, 63. develop

64. have a speech imp_____nt *n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
65. the runner's p__e *n.* the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes
66. business sp___e *n.* a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
67. c__m manner *adj.* not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves
68. run like h__l *n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
69. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
70. finding a lo_____le *n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties
71. th_____y for a patient *n.* the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.
72. jo__r card *n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild

ANSWERS: 64. impediment, 65. pace, 66. sphere, 67. calm, 68. hell, 69. singe, 70. loophole, 71. therapy, 72. joker

73. end at a sy____e *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
74. h__o effect *n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse
75. pa_____nt to all the others *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
76. permanent br__n damage *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
77. i__e capital *adj.* not working hard or not having a job; useless
78. an arrival pl_____m *n.* the raised flat space close to the track at a train station where passengers get on or off the train; (technology) a computational or digital environment in which a piece of software is executed
79. sl_____ly alkaline soils *adv.* in a small degree or extent; a little
80. kin_____ten class *n.* a school or class for young children, usually between the ages of four and six
81. this mo___l life *adj.* subject to death; unrelenting and deadly
82. ho___r movie *n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying

ANSWERS: 73. synapse, 74. halo, 75. paramount, 76. brain, 77. idle, 78. platform, 79. slightly, 80. kindergarten, 81. mortal, 82. horror

83. say a gr__e *n.* a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal
84. an aw____d expression *adj.* making you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed; causing inconvenience or difficulty
85. cost of solar pa__ls *n.* a square or rectangular and flat piece of something that forms a distinct section or component of something; a small group of specialists who discuss particular topics or give their advice or opinion about something
86. r__l a ball *v.* to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side
87. a com_____ive explanation *adj.* complete and including all or everything necessary
88. an unc_____ble silence *adj.* providing or feeling physical discomfort or slight pain
89. immune fu____on *n.* the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 83. grace, 84. awkward, 85. panel, 86. roll, 87. comprehensive, 88. uncomfortable, 89. function

90. basic br__n function *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
91. ho___r-struck look *n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
92. g__w a pale orange *v.* to give out a steady, strong light
93. with an unc_____ble face *adj.* providing or feeling physical discomfort or slight pain
94. ch__t on my taxes *v.* to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws
95. pr__e number *adj.* main or most important; basic
96. sw__r an oath *v.* to make a solemn promise or vow; to use rude or offensive language
97. perpetuate a m__h *n.* an ancient story or set of stories accepted as history, especially explaining the worldview of a people
98. as___e an important role *v.* to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
99. ec_____y of scale *n.* the system by which a country or region produces manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel

ANSWERS: 90. brain, 91. horror, 92. glow, 93. uncomfortable, 94. cheat, 95. prime, 96. swear, 97. myth, 98. assume, 99. economy

100. seductive v__p neckline *n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece
101. he_____te for a moment *v.* to pause decision before saying or doing something
102. a digital pl_____rm for enterprise *n.* the raised flat space close to the track at a train station where passengers get on or off the train; (technology) a computational or digital environment in which a piece of software is executed
103. the to__c of the book *n.* a subject that is being discussed or written about
104. on___r interview *adj.* relating to or occurring during a live broadcast on radio or television; being broadcast
105. a p__e complexion *adj.* having skin that is very light colored; lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness
106. fallen an__l *n.* a spiritual being believed to be a messenger of God often depicted as having wings and a halo
107. h__l broke loose *n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

ANSWERS: 100. vamp, 101. hesitate, 102. platform, 103. topic, 104. on-air, 105. pale, 106. angel, 107. hell

108. as___e a lousy attitude to his boss *v.* to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
109. he_____te to ask for help *v.* to pause decision before saying or doing something
110. increase sl_____ly *adv.* in a small degree or extent; a little
111. a serious to__c *n.* a subject that is being discussed or written about
112. j__z club *n.* a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression
113. the lord pa_____nt *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
114. for in_____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
115. live an i__e life *adj.* not working hard or not having a job; useless
116. financial ind_____nce *n.* freedom from another's or others' control or influence
117. r__l down his cheeks *v.* to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side
118. clear in_____on *n.* something you want to do and are going to do

ANSWERS: 108. assume, 109. hesitate, 110. slightly, 111. topic, 112. jazz, 113. paramount, 114. instance, 115. idle, 116. independence, 117. roll, 118. intention

119. tax re___f *n.* a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced
120. n__n phrase *n.* a word that generally functions as the name of a specific object or set of objects
121. st____r speech *v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech
122. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
123. at your own p__e *n.* the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes
124. st____r out an apology *v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech
125. conduct a com_____ive survey *adj.* complete and including all or everything necessary
126. sp___e of influence *n.* a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity

ANSWERS: 119. relief, 120. noun, 121. stutter, 122. sham, 123. pace, 124. stutter, 125. comprehensive, 126. sphere

127. the m__h of an old religion *n.* an ancient story or set of stories accepted as history, especially explaining the worldview of a people
128. an__l investors *n.* a spiritual being believed to be a messenger of God often depicted as having wings and a halo

ANSWERS: 127. myth, 128. angel

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ design of the interface made the operation difficult.
adj. making you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed; causing inconvenience or difficulty
2. My computer has been acting _____ recently.
adj. extraordinary, unexpected, or difficult to explain
3. After a thorough investigation, she has been named as the _____ suspect.
adj. main or most important; basic
4. The movie had an _____ sex scene that some viewers might find offensive.
adj. stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt
5. We have a _____ grasp of this topic.
adj. complete and including all or everything necessary
6. The stories of war crimes filled her with _____.
n. intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
7. He moved his body _____ to the left.
adv. in a small degree or extent; a little
8. X-rays revealed a small tumor in his _____.
n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
9. He tends to _____ when he gets nervous, making it difficult for others to understand him.
v. to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech

ANSWERS: 1. awkward, 2. weird, 3. prime, 4. explicit, 5. comprehensive, 6. horror, 7.

slightly, 8. brain, 9. stutter

10. We must _____ a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.
- v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created
11. The data he prepared was completely _____.
- n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
12. She turned _____ when she heard the news.
- adj.* having skin that is very light colored; lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness
13. The economy is growing at a supercharged _____.
- n.* the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes
14. Even though he knew it was wrong, he _____ on the exam.
- v.* to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws
15. She learned five languages but is only _____ in two of them.
- adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
16. A _____ in the tax code allows some people to avoid paying taxes legally.
- n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties
17. The speaker mounted the _____ and started to speak.
- n.* the raised flat space close to the track at a train station where passengers get on or off the train; (technology) a computational or digital environment in which a piece of software is executed

ANSWERS: 10. develop, 11. sham, 12. pale, 13. pace, 14. cheated, 15. fluent, 16. loophole, 17. platform

18. He was an ____ at playing poker and often won the game.

- n.* a playing card with a single symbol or mark that is typically the highest in value or rank in a particular card game; a person who is very skilled or successful in a specific activity or field

19. This country became a country of _____ geostrategic importance to us.

- adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

20. The music festival had a great _____ with everyone enjoying the performances and having a good time.

- n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood

21. We all _____ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

- v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

22. You _____ a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

- v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

23. Jockey's superior _____ brought him victory.

- n.* a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill

24. The ____ truth was that he had been lying to her for months.

- adj.* unattractive in appearance; unpleasant to look at

25. Animals transmit nerve impulses through _____.

- n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it

ANSWERS: 18. ace, 19. paramount, 20. vibe, 21. dread, 22. stick, 23. technique, 24. ugly, 25. synapses

26. The _____ of the country is struggling due to the recent political instability.
- n.* the system by which a country or region produces, manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel
27. He was trying to repair the _____ of his shoe, which had become detached from the sole.
- n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece
28. The sun was setting, and the sky _____ with beautiful colors.
- v.* to give out a steady, strong light
29. The _____ to the new class was informative and engaging.
- n.* a preliminary explanation or remarks given before the start of a text, performance, or event; the act of bringing something new into existence or introducing something to a wider audience or new market
30. The _____ of the earth is divided into several layers including the crust, mantle, and core.
- n.* a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
31. The radio host was nervous about going _____ for the first time.
- adj.* relating to or occurring during a live broadcast on radio or television; being broadcast

ANSWERS: 26. economy, 27. vamp, 28. glowed, 29. introduction, 30. sphere, 31. on-air

32. In some foreign languages, the gender of _____ exists.

n. a word that generally functions as the name of a specific object or set of objects

33. I _____ I didn't mean to break your vase.

v. to make a solemn promise or vow; to use rude or offensive language

34. I underwent aversion _____ for my addiction to alcohol.

n. the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.

35. He studies Greek and Roman _____.

n. a collection of myths (= traditional stories accepted as history) or the study of myths

36. A _____ of economic advisers from the United States visited the country to help rebuild its economy.

n. a square or rectangular and flat piece of something that forms a distinct section or component of something; a small group of specialists who discuss particular topics or give their advice or opinion about something

37. Please do not _____ to call us.

v. to pause decision before saying or doing something

38. He devoted his life to establishing a humanitarian _____ fund.

n. a feeling of happiness and relaxation that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced

39. As she lay on her deathbed, a bright light appeared, and she saw a holy _____ standing at the foot of her bed.

n. a spiritual being believed to be a messenger of God often depicted as having wings and a halo

ANSWERS: 32. nouns, 33. swear, 34. therapy, 35. mythology, 36. panel, 37. hesitate, 38. relief, 39. angel

40. The _____ students were having a good time playing with toys.
n. a school or class for young children, usually between the ages of four and six
41. The _____ sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.
adj. calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
42. Refined character portrayal makes up for _____ gameplay.
adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
43. There is nothing more valuable than _____ and freedom.
n. freedom from another's or others' control or influence
44. The brain is an incredibly complex organ that controls the body's _____.
n. the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose
45. These articles cite five _____ of climate change.
n. a particular example or single occurrence of something
46. With the financial bubble bursting, the _____ of economic growth in investment banking collapsed.
n. an ancient story or set of stories accepted as history, especially explaining the worldview of a people
47. There are several _____ machines in the factory because of the decreased orders.
adj. not working hard or not having a job; useless

ANSWERS: 40. kindergarten, 41. serene, 42. clunky, 43. independence, 44. function, 45. instances, 46. myth, 47. idle

48. The _____ of the discussion was the current state of the economy.
n. a subject that is being discussed or written about
49. The language barrier was an _____ to their communication.
n. a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
50. He listened to _____ music to relax after a long day at work.
n. a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression
51. Our CEO's _____ are always transparent and straightforward.
n. something you want to do and are going to do
52. The following example _____ that the capacity of each battery is the same.
v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
53. All humans are _____ and will eventually die.
adj. subject to death; unrelenting and deadly
54. He made a _____ recovery.
adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
55. It was the first time in a long time that I felt truly _____ and at peace.
adj. not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves
56. The old oak tree stood with _____ and majesty in the park's center.
n. a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal

ANSWERS: 48. topic, 49. impediment, 50. jazz, 51. intentions, 52. assumes, 53. mortal, 54. miraculous, 55. calm, 56. grace

57. The battlefield became _____ on earth.

- n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

58. His abusive words made me _____.

- adj.* providing or feeling physical discomfort or slight pain

59. The painting of the saint had a golden _____ surrounding her head, symbolizing her holiness.

- n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse

60. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.

- v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

61. The knot was _____ and she had to use scissors to cut it.

- adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from

62. He was exhausted and _____ into bed as soon as he got home.

- v.* to move in a particular direction by turning over and over or from side to side

63. A culture of _____ in the workplace leads to better communication and productivity.

- n.* the quality of being truthful, sincere, and morally upright; adherence to moral and ethical principles

64. The office clown constantly played the _____ making his coworkers laugh with his silly antics.

- n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild

ANSWERS: 57. hell, 58. uncomfortable, 59. halo, 60. singed, 61. inextricable, 62. rolled, 63. honesty, 64. joker,

ANSWERS: