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Ray Laurence: Four sisters in Ancient Rome | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

atrium

n. a central or main hall or open space in a building, typically with a skylight or large window, often serving as a gathering area or focal point; (of anatomy) a chamber or cavity within the heart or inner ear

synonym : lobby, hall, chamber

(1) **atrium** architecture, (2) **atrium** valve

The office building had a beautiful **atrium** in the center, filled with natural light and plants.

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.

ancestry

n. the family or the ethnic descent that you come from

synonym : ancestor, family, descent

(1) a distinguished **ancestry**, (2) prehuman **ancestry**

He looked down on the royal **ancestry** of the neighboring country.

tripartite

adj. consisting of three parts or elements

synonym : three-part, tripart, triple

(1) **tripartite** discussion, (2) **tripartite** committee

The **tripartite** agreement between the government, the unions, and the employers helped to resolve the labor dispute.

stepfather

n. a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father

synonym: stepdad, father figure, dad-in-law

(1) supportive **stepfather**, (2) **stepfather** role

I didn't get along with my **stepfather** when I was young, but now we're like best friends.

woo

v. to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

synonym: court, pursue, charm

(1) **woo** consumers, (2) **woo** voters with promises

He tried to **woo** her with his charm and wit.

barber

n. a person who cuts men's hair and shaves beards as a profession; a shop or establishment where such services are offered

synonym: hairdresser, stylist, shaver

(1) favorite **barber**, (2) **barber** pole

The **barber** shop was closed on Monday, much to the disappointment of many customers.

prostitute

n. a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment

synonym: hooker, harlot, whore

(1) **prostitute** street, (2) a male **prostitute**

She turned to **prostitute** to make ends meet.

applaud

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

synonym: clap, celebrate, praise

(1) **applaud** his courage, (2) **applaud** the orchestra

I enthusiastically **applaud** my rival's achievement.

hiss

- v. to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake;
(noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound

synonym: whish, sibilate, wheeze

(1) **hiss** warningly at the intruder, (2) the **hiss** of a snake

The cat arched its back and **hissed** at the approaching dog.

loom

- v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym: appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

weave

- v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

elliptical

- adj.* having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself

synonym: oval, egg-shaped, oblong

(1) an **elliptical** motion, (2) an **elliptical** galaxies

The satellite's **elliptical** orbit made it appear to change its distance from earth.

fad

- n. an intense and widely shared enthusiasm for a particular style, activity, or interest that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a craze

synonym: craze, mania, trend

(1) become a **fad**, (2) computer game **fad**

His interest in music composition is only a **fad**.

Senate

n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

synonym: upper house, council, assembly

(1) **Senate** hearing, (2) **Senate** Finance Committee

The **Senate** majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

portico

n. a covered entranceway or porch, usually with columns or pillars supporting a roof; a structure attached to the entrance of a building, providing shelter or a ceremonial space

synonym: porch, entrance, colonnade

(1) **portico** entrance, (2) classical **portico**

The grand mansion had a beautiful **portico** at the entrance.

betroth

v. to engage or promise to marry someone; to become formally engaged or betrothed

synonym: plight, engage, affiance

(1) **betroth** a couple, (2) **betroth** to marry

The couple decided to **betroth** themselves in a private ceremony.

darling

n. a term of endearment or affectionate term for someone you love or hold dear

synonym: sweetheart, beloved, dear

(1) have a **darling** baby, (2) medium **darling**

My **darling** child, I love you so much.

insignia

n. a badge, emblem, or symbol that represents a particular organization, office, or rank; a distinguishing mark or badge that indicates membership or affiliation with a particular group or organization

synonym: badge, emblem, crest

(1) naval **insignia**, (2) school **insignia**

The military uniform had a bright red **insignia** on the sleeve.

betrothal

n. the act of engaging or promising to marry; a formal engagement or promise to marry, usually involving a formal agreement between the families of the betrothed individuals

synonym : engagement, troth, espousal

(1) **betrothal** ceremony, (2) exchange of **betrothal** gifts

My parents entered into a **betrothal** agreement with my fiance's parents.

myrtle

n. a small evergreen shrub or tree with glossy leaves and white, pink, or purple flowers; the aromatic oil derived from the leaves of this plant often used in perfumes and as a flavoring agent

synonym : myrtle, shrub, plant

(1) **myrtle** essential oil, (2) beautiful **myrtle** tree

I planted **myrtle** bushes in my garden to add color and fragrance.

bling

n. a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials

synonym : jewelry, accessories, ornaments

(1) flashy **bling**, (2) **bling** jewelry

She loves to accessorize with lots of **bling**, but I prefer a different style.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

burl

n. a type of growth on a tree that develops into a rounded, knotty lump and is often prized for its unique and attractive pattern, used in woodworking and decorative arts

synonym : knob, gnarl, knot

(1) the intricate pattern in the **burl**, (2) **burl** furniture

The **burl** on the tree trunk added character to the table made from it.

chaperon

n. a person, typically an older woman, who accompanies and supervises a younger woman or a group of young people in social situations to ensure proper behavior; (verb) to accompany and supervise someone, especially a young person, on a social occasion to ensure their safety and proper behavior

synonym : escort, companion, guardian

(1) **chaperon** duties, (2) need for a **chaperon**

The school dance required each group of students to have a **chaperon** to supervise.

traverse

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

synonym : cross, pass through, travel over

(1) **traverse** the region, (2) **traverse** a vast extent of sea

Approximately 1000 automobiles **traverse** the bridge every day.

colosseum

n. (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

(1) build a **colosseum** for gladiators, (2) **Colosseum** area

Rome's **Colosseum** gets busy in peak season.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym : ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

- eel** *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
(1) glass **eel**, (2) electric **eel**
The fisherman caught a slippery **eel** while out on the lake.
- tame** *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
synonym: domesticate, soften, (adjective) harmless
(1) **tame** a wild beast, (2) a **tame** animal
We have to **tame** substantial financial deficits at first.
- temper** *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
synonym: mood, disposition, nature
(1) a hasty **temper**, (2) bridle my **temper**
The **temper** of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
- ascend** *v.* to go or move upward; to become king or queen; to inherit something, such as a power
synonym: rise, climb, go up
(1) **ascend** the ladder, (2) **ascend** to power
The plane began to **ascend** into the sky.
- enclose** *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
synonym: surround, encase, contain
(1) **enclose** a check with a letter, (2) **enclose** area
The walls were **enclosed** to create a private outdoor space.
- graffiti** *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
synonym: street art, tagging, vandalism

(1) **graffiti** art, (2) **graffiti** tag

The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the **graffiti** on the buildings downtown.

gladiator

n. a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences

synonym: fighter, warrior, combatant

(1) act like a **gladiator**, (2) the Christian **gladiator**

The **gladiator's** training regimen included physical conditioning, weapons training, and strategy.

spectator

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

synonym: onlooker, observer, viewer

(1) mass **spectator** sport, (2) **spectator** seat

She enjoyed watching the game as a **spectator**.

gore

v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death;
(noun) coagulated blood from a wound

synonym: pierce, stab, puncture

(1) **gore** him with a weapon, (2) **gore** scene

The hunter **gored** the deer with an arrow.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym: joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

gatekeeper

n. a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

synonym: guardian, watchman, custodian

(1) **gatekeeper** role, (2) information **gatekeeper**

The company's **gatekeeper** **screened** all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the boss.

hush

v. to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential

synonym: clam up, quieten, settle down

(1) **hush** for a while, (2) **hush** up a case

Please **hush** your voice so that the baby can sleep.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation **descendant**

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

farewell

n. the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting

synonym: goodbye, send-off

(1) a **farewell** address, (2) bid **farewell** to the departed

There is his **farewell** party tomorrow.

bodyguard

n. a person or group of people employed to protect someone, typically a public figure or a person of importance, from harm or attack

synonym: protector, guard, defender

(1) VIP **bodyguard**, (2) elite **bodyguard** unit

The celebrity hired a personal **bodyguard** to protect them from the paparazzi.

vengeance

n. the act of punishing or harming someone in return for something harmful that they have done

synonym: retaliation, retribution, revenge

(1) **vengeance** justice, (2) wreak **vengeance**

He sought **vengeance** for the wrongs done to him.

Session 2: Spelling

1. en____e a check with a letter *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
2. sp_____or seat *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
3. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
4. wreak ve_____ce *n.* the act of punishing or harming someone in return for something harmful that they have done
5. become a f_d *n.* an intense and widely shared enthusiasm for a particular style, activity, or interest that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a craze
6. school in_____ia *n.* a badge, emblem, or symbol that represents a particular organization, office, or rank; a distinguishing mark or badge that indicates membership or affiliation with a particular group or organization
7. a male pro_____te *n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment
8. at___m valve *n.* a central or main hall or open space in a building, typically with a skylight or large window, often serving as a gathering area or focal point; (of anatomy) a chamber or cavity within the heart or inner ear

ANSWERS: 1. enclose, 2. spectator, 3. smashing, 4. vengeance, 5. fad, 6. insignia, 7. prostitute, 8. atrium

9. naval in_____ia *n.* a badge, emblem, or symbol that represents a particular organization, office, or rank; a distinguishing mark or badge that indicates membership or affiliation with a particular group or organization
10. bid fa_____ll to the departed *n.* the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting
11. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
12. mass sp_____or sport *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
13. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
14. ve_____ce justice *n.* the act of punishing or harming someone in return for something harmful that they have done
15. beautiful my____e tree *n.* a small evergreen shrub or tree with glossy leaves and white, pink, or purple flowers; the aromatic oil derived from the leaves of this plant often used in perfumes and as a flavoring agent
16. ba____r pole *n.* a person who cuts men's hair and shaves beards as a profession; a shop or establishment where such services are offered

ANSWERS: 9. insignia, 10. farewell, 11. pun, 12. spectator, 13. smashing, 14. vengeance, 15. myrtle, 16. barber

25. VIP bo_____rd *n.* a person or group of people employed to protect someone, typically a public figure or a person of importance, from harm or attack
26. Se___e Finance Committee *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
27. w_o consumers *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
28. en_____e area *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
29. gr_____ti art *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
30. bridle my te____r *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
31. g__e scene *v.* to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
32. be_____h a couple *v.* to engage or promise to marry someone; to become formally engaged or betrothed
33. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

ANSWERS: 25. bodyguard, 26. Senate, 27. woo, 28. enclose, 29. graffiti, 30. temper, 31. gore, 32. betroth, 33. pun

34. a hasty te___r *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
35. medium da____g *n.* a term of endearment or affectionate term for someone you love or hold dear
36. I__m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
37. elite bo_____rd unit *n.* a person or group of people employed to protect someone, typically a public figure or a person of importance, from harm or attack
38. exchange of be_____al gifts *n.* the act of engaging or promising to marry; a formal engagement or promise to marry, usually involving a formal agreement between the families of the betrothed individuals
39. the h__s of a snake *v.* to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
40. pro_____te street *n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment
41. Se___e hearing *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

ANSWERS: 34. temper, 35. darling, 36. loom, 37. bodyguard, 38. betrothal, 39. hiss, 40. prostitute, 41. Senate

42. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
43. an ell_____al motion *adj.* having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself
44. an ell_____al galaxies *adj.* having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself
45. supportive ste_____er *n.* a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father
46. have a da_____g baby *n.* a term of endearment or affectionate term for someone you love or hold dear
47. the intricate pattern in the b__l *n.* a type of growth on a tree that develops into a rounded, knotty lump and is often prized for its unique and attractive pattern, used in woodworking and decorative arts
48. computer game f_d *n.* an intense and widely shared enthusiasm for a particular style, activity, or interest that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a craze
49. flashy bl__g *n.* a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials

ANSWERS: 42. weave, 43. elliptical, 44. elliptical, 45. stepfather, 46. darling, 47. burl, 48. fad, 49. bling

50. ap____d the orchestra *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
51. at___m architecture *n.* a central or main hall or open space in a building, typically with a skylight or large window, often serving as a gathering area or focal point; (of anatomy) a chamber or cavity within the heart or inner ear
52. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
53. ap____d his courage *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
54. glass e_l *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
55. w_o voters with promises *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
56. bl__g jewelry *n.* a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials
57. be_____al ceremony *n.* the act of engaging or promising to marry; a formal engagement or promise to marry, usually involving a formal agreement between the families of the betrothed individuals
58. gr_____ti tag *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place

ANSWERS: 50. applaud, 51. atrium, 52. confuse, 53. applaud, 54. eel, 55. woo, 56. bling, 57. betrothal, 58. graffiti

59. tr____se the region v. to cross or move through a land or water area
60. t__e a wild beast v. to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
61. tr____se a vast extent of sea v. to cross or move through a land or water area
62. a distinguished an____ry n. the family or the ethnic descent that you come from
63. b__l furniture n. a type of growth on a tree that develops into a rounded, knotty lump and is often prized for its unique and attractive pattern, used in woodworking and decorative arts
64. former em____r n. the male ruler of an empire
65. build a co____um for gladiators n. (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
66. l__m on the horizon v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
67. co____e the listener v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
68. de____te a chapter to the subject v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

ANSWERS: 59. traverse, 60. tame, 61. traverse, 62. ancestry, 63. burl, 64. emperor, 65. colosseum, 66. loom, 67. confuse, 68. dedicate

69. information gat_____er *n.* a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
70. electric e_l *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
71. a t__e animal *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
72. a fa_____ll address *n.* the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting
73. gat_____er role *n.* a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
74. the Christian gl_____or *n.* a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences

ANSWERS: 69. gatekeeper, 70. eel, 71. tame, 72. farewell, 73. gatekeeper, 74. gladiator

75. h__h for a while *v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
76. h__s warningly at the intruder *v.* to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
77. g__e him with a weapon *v.* to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
78. act like a gl____or *n.* a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences
79. tri____te committee *adj.* consisting of three parts or elements
80. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
81. favorite ba____r *n.* a person who cuts men's hair and shaves beards as a profession; a shop or establishment where such services are offered
82. as____d to power *v.* to go or move upward; to become king or queen; to inherit something, such as a power

ANSWERS: 75. hush, 76. hiss, 77. gore, 78. gladiator, 79. tripartite, 80. dedicate, 81. barber, 82. ascend

83. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
84. prehuman an_____ry *n.* the family or the ethnic descent that you come from
85. em_____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
86. ch_____on duties *n.* a person, typically an older woman, who accompanies and supervises a younger woman or a group of young people in social situations to ensure proper behavior; (verb) to accompany and supervise someone, especially a young person, on a social occasion to ensure their safety and proper behavior
87. Co_____um area *n.* (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
88. po_____o entrance *n.* a covered entranceway or porch, usually with columns or pillars supporting a roof; a structure attached to the entrance of a building, providing shelter or a ceremonial space
89. as____d the ladder *v.* to go or move upward; to become king or queen; to inherit something, such as a power
90. tri_____te discussion *adj.* consisting of three parts or elements

ANSWERS: 83. descendant, 84. ancestry, 85. emperor, 86. chaperon, 87. colosseum, 88. portico, 89. ascend, 90. tripartite

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My _____ child, I love you so much.
n. a term of endearment or affectionate term for someone you love or hold dear

2. The plane began to _____ into the sky.
v. to go or move upward; to become king or queen; to inherit something, such as a power

3. The fisherman caught a slippery ____ while out on the lake.
n. a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins

4. The walls were _____ to create a private outdoor space.
v. to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

5. I planted _____ bushes in my garden to add color and fragrance.
n. a small evergreen shrub or tree with glossy leaves and white, pink, or purple flowers; the aromatic oil derived from the leaves of this plant often used in perfumes and as a flavoring agent

6. My parents entered into a _____ agreement with my fiance's parents.
n. the act of engaging or promising to marry; a formal engagement or promise to marry, usually involving a formal agreement between the families of the betrothed individuals

7. He tried to ____ her with his charm and wit.
v. to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

ANSWERS: 1. darling, 2. ascend, 3. eel, 4. enclosed, 5. myrtle, 6. betrothal, 7. woo

8. She loves to accessorize with lots of _____ but I prefer a different style.
n. a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials
9. The hunter _____ the deer with an arrow.
v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
10. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
11. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.
v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
12. The _____ on the tree trunk added character to the table made from it.
n. a type of growth on a tree that develops into a rounded, knotty lump and is often prized for its unique and attractive pattern, used in woodworking and decorative arts
13. The company's _____ all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the boss.
n. a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
14. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

ANSWERS: 8. bling, 9. gored, 10. smashing, 11. weaves, 12. burl, 13. gatekeeper screened, 14. confused

15. The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the _____ on the buildings downtown.
- n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
16. The _____ of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
- n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
17. The _____ shop was closed on Monday, much to the disappointment of many customers.
- n.* a person who cuts men's hair and shaves beards as a profession; a shop or establishment where such services are offered
18. He looked down on the royal _____ of the neighboring country.
- n.* the family or the ethnic descent that you come from
19. The grand mansion had a beautiful _____ at the entrance.
- n.* a covered entranceway or porch, usually with columns or pillars supporting a roof; a structure attached to the entrance of a building, providing shelter or a ceremonial space
20. There is his _____ party tomorrow.
- n.* the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting
21. The _____ training regimen included physical conditioning, weapons training, and strategy.
- n.* a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences

ANSWERS: 15. graffiti, 16. temper, 17. barber, 18. ancestry, 19. portico, 20. farewell, 21. gladiator's

22. I didn't get along with my _____ when I was young, but now we're like best friends.
- n.* a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father
23. Please _____ your voice so that the baby can sleep.
- v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
24. The comedian's _____ had the audience laughing out loud.
- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
25. He sought _____ for the wrongs done to him.
- n.* the act of punishing or harming someone in return for something harmful that they have done
26. His interest in music composition is only a _____.
- n.* an intense and widely shared enthusiasm for a particular style, activity, or interest that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a craze
27. The office building had a beautiful _____ in the center, filled with natural light and plants.
- n.* a central or main hall or open space in a building, typically with a skylight or large window, often serving as a gathering area or focal point; (of anatomy) a chamber or cavity within the heart or inner ear
28. She turned to _____ to make ends meet.
- n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment

ANSWERS: 22. stepfather, 23. hush, 24. pun, 25. vengeance, 26. fad, 27. atrium, 28. prostitute

29. The satellite's _____ orbit made it appear to change its distance from earth.

adj. having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself

30. The couple decided to _____ themselves in a private ceremony.

v. to engage or promise to marry someone; to become formally engaged or betrothed

31. Approximately 1000 automobiles _____ the bridge every day.

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

32. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.

n. the male ruler of an empire

33. The school dance required each group of students to have a _____ to supervise.

n. a person, typically an older woman, who accompanies and supervises a younger woman or a group of young people in social situations to ensure proper behavior; (verb) to accompany and supervise someone, especially a young person, on a social occasion to ensure their safety and proper behavior

34. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

35. I enthusiastically _____ my rival's achievement.

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

36. She enjoyed watching the game as a _____.

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

ANSWERS: 29. elliptical, 30. betroth, 31. traverse, 32. Emperor, 33. chaperon, 34. loomed, 35. applaud, 36. spectator

37. The cat arched its back and _____ at the approaching dog.
- v. to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
38. The _____ majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.
- n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
39. The military uniform had a bright red _____ on the sleeve.
- n. a badge, emblem, or symbol that represents a particular organization, office, or rank; a distinguishing mark or badge that indicates membership or affiliation with a particular group or organization
40. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
- n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
41. The celebrity hired a personal _____ to protect them from the paparazzi.
- n. a person or group of people employed to protect someone, typically a public figure or a person of importance, from harm or attack
42. We have to _____ substantial financial deficits at first.
- v. to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
43. Rome's _____ gets busy in peak season.
- n. (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

ANSWERS: 37. hissed, 38. Senate, 39. insignia, 40. descendants, 41. bodyguard, 42. tame, 43. Colosseum

44. He _____ his life to helping others.

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

45. The _____ agreement between the government, the unions, and the employers helped to resolve the labor dispute.

adj. consisting of three parts or elements

ANSWERS: 44. dedicated, 45. tripartite