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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym: demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

slang

n. informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context

synonym: lingo, jargon, vernacular

(1) **slang** phrases, (2) Internet **slang**

A lot of **slang** words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.

cranky

adj. easily irritated or annoyed; bad-tempered; in a state of discomfort or pain, often resulting in irritability or moodiness

synonym : crabby, irritable, grumpy

(1) **cranky** mood, (2) **cranky** toddler

I feel **cranky** today; please forgive me if I seem irritable.

adorable

adj. inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable

synonym : cute, lovely, charming

(1) **adorable** baby, (2) **adorable** puppy

My friend's daughter is **adorable**, with curly hair and big brown eyes.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

abridge

v. to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence

synonym : condense, shorten, abbreviate

(1) **abridge** a biography, (2) **abridge** a speech

I had to **abridge** the novel to fit it into the time allotted for the movie.

pedestal

n. a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed

synonym : base, stand, platform

(1) **pedestal** sink, (2) a stone **pedestal**

The statue was placed on a **pedestal** in the center of the park.

timeless

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

synonym : dateless, everlasting, imperishable

(1) **timeless** masterpiece, (2) **timeless** topic

There is a **timeless** aspect to his most remarkable work.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym : bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune

Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

faddish

adj. characterized by following or adopting a passing fashion or trend without much thought or consideration; prone to being fashionable for a brief time and then losing popularity

synonym : trendy, crowd-pleasing, popular

(1) **faddish** diet, (2) **faddish** clothing style

The **faddish** trend of wearing neon clothing quickly faded away.

dialect

n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

synonym : accent, language, vernacular

(1) a local **dialect**, (2) minority **dialect**

The **dialect** spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

synonym : grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym : peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

hashtag

n. a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic

(1) marked with a **hashtag**, (2) trending **hashtag**

Our brand's campaign uses a unique **hashtag** to track engagement and reach.

discombobulate

v. to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate

synonym: upset, confuse, muddle

(1) **discombobulate** the competition, (2) **discombobulate** the balance

The sudden power surge threatened to **discombobulate** the entire computer system.

slack

adj. lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude

synonym: loose, lax, floppy

(1) a **slack** rope, (2) **slack** performance

The team's **slack** attitude towards deadlines caused the project to fall behind schedule.

goofy

adj. silly or foolish

synonym: silly, crazy, dopey

(1) wore a **goofy** hat, (2) with a **goofy** expression

He made a **goofy** face as he recalled this morning's events.

demote

v. to lower in rank, position, or status; to reduce or downgrade someone's authority or responsibilities

synonym: downgrade, lower, demerit

(1) **demote** an employee, (2) **demote** a song from the top charts

His poor performance caused the coach to **demote** him to the bench.

unremarkable

adj. ordinary and not particularly interesting

synonym: commonplace, unmemorable, mundane

- (1) completely ordinary and **unremarkable**,
(2) **unremarkable** in looks

He was very busy at work but otherwise led an **unremarkable** life.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

- (1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

banish

v. to expel or send away from a place or situation, especially permanently

synonym : exile, deport, expel

- (1) **banish** doubt, (2) **banish** my wrinkles

The queen **banished** the traitor from the kingdom, never to be seen again.

prominence

n. the state of being important, easily seen, or well known

synonym : notability, eminence, distinction

- (1) earn **prominence**, (2) **prominence** in society

He achieved **prominence** in the field of medicine with his groundbreaking research.

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**.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym : settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation
European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the
16th and 17th centuries.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a
particular way

synonym: articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about
something for a long time thoughtfully

synonym: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving
school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a
full-time job.

quaint

adj. attractively or charmingly old-fashioned or unusual often
used to describe something with a pleasingly unusual or
quirky appearance or manner

synonym: charming, picturesque, eccentric

(1) **quaint** village, (2) **quaint** cottage

The **quaint** old town was full of historic buildings and
charming shops.

downright

adj. (especially of something bad) complete and absolute;
utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely

synonym: absolute, utter, complete

(1) **downright** nonsense, (2) **downright** impossible

It was a **downright** lie that he would attend the event.

illegitimate

adj. not legally valid or recognized

synonym: unlawful, misbegotten, felonious

(1) an **illegitimate** occupation, (2) **illegitimate** claim

He had an **illegitimate** child that he never acknowledged.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym: encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior
Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

boorish

adj. behaving in a rude, ill-mannered, or uncultured way; lacking in social graces or sensitivity towards others

synonym: rude, uncouth, uncivil

(1) **boorish** language, (2) a **boorish** remark

He showed **boorish** behavior by burping loudly at the formal dinner.

bureaucracy

n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

synonym: administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

troublesome

adj. causing difficulty or annoyance for someone

synonym: disconcerting, unsettling, upsetting

(1) undertake a **troublesome** task, (2) **troublesome** behavior

He had to resolve a **troublesome** event that happened unexpectedly

peruse

v. to read or examine something carefully and thoroughly

synonym: examine, scrutinize, study

(1) **peruse** every page of a book, (2) **peruse** the document

She **perused** the menu before ordering her meal.

skim

v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or

briefly over a surface

synonym : glance, scan, skitter

(1) **skim** off the top, (2) **skim** the surface of the water

I like to **skim** the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.

lenient

adj. not harsh or strict; tolerant; forgiving; allowing for freedom or flexibility

synonym : permissive, indulgent, easygoing

(1) **lenient** punishment, (2) **lenient** rules

The teacher was **lenient** with the deadline for the project, giving the students extra time to finish.

pronouncement

n. a formal or authoritative statement or announcement, especially one issued by a governing body or public official

synonym : declaration, edict, proclamation

(1) **pronouncement** of a judgment, (2) official

pronouncement

The **pronouncement** by the king declared that war was imminent and all non-disabled men were to report for duty.

academician

n. a person who is a member of an academy, especially in the arts or sciences; a person who is an expert in a particular field of study or knowledge

synonym : scholar, professor, educator

(1) **academician** community, (2) distinguished

academician

The **academician's** research is widely cited in scientific literature.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym : rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure

stags.

retrospect

n. a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

synonym: review, hindsight, contemplation

(1) **retrospect** review, (2) with hindsight **retrospect**

In **retrospect**, I wish I had made a different decision.

decimate

v. to destroy a significant portion of something or reduce by ten percent; to cause extensive destruction or severe damage; to drastically reduce in size or number

synonym: devastate, destroy, annihilate

(1) **decimate** population, (2) **decimate** economy

The hurricane **decimated** the small town, leaving behind destruction and devastation.

worrisome

adj. causing worry, trouble, or anxiety; indicating the possible presence of danger, difficulty, or harm

synonym: concerning, troubling, bothersome

(1) **worrisome** issue, (2) **worrisome** development

The **worrisome** news about the impending storm caused many people to evacuate.

remake

v. to create a new version of a work of art, such as a film, song, or play, using the same or similar material as the original; to adapt or update something for a new audience or purpose; (noun) a new version or adaptation of a previously existing movie, song, TV show, or other creative work

synonym: revamp, redo, reproduce

(1) video game **remake**, (2) **remake** song

The director plans to **remake** the classic movie with a modern twist.

arbiter

n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a

judgment or decision

synonym: judge, referee, mediator

(1) professional **arbiter**, (2) cultural **arbiter**

The **arbiter** of the dispute will be an impartial judge.

illogical

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

synonym: irrational, senseless, nonsensical

(1) **illogical** argument, (2) **illogical** reasoning

His argument made no sense and was completely **illogical**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. wo_____me development *adj.* causing worry, trouble, or anxiety; indicating the possible presence of danger, difficulty, or harm
2. government bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
3. pro_____ent of a judgment *n.* a formal or authoritative statement or announcement, especially one issued by a governing body or public official
4. a sl__k rope *adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude
5. ga___e \$100 on the race *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
6. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
7. video game re___e *v.* to create a new version of a work of art, such as a film, song, or play, using the same or similar material as the original; to adapt or update something for a new audience or purpose; (noun) a new version or adaptation of a previously existing movie, song, TV show, or other creative work
8. ab_____e a speech *v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence

ANSWERS: 1. worrisome, 2. bureaucracy, 3. pronouncement, 4. slack, 5. gamble, 6. incentivize, 7. remake, 8. abridge

9. con_____ted leaving school *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
10. sl__k performance *adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude
11. de___e a song from the top charts *v.* to lower in rank, position, or status; to reduce or downgrade someone's authority or responsibilities
12. completely ordinary and unr_____ble *adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
13. ti_____ss topic *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
14. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
15. cultural ar_____r *n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
16. tro_____me behavior *adj.* causing difficulty or annoyance for someone
17. ab_____e a biography *v.* to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence
18. a stone pe_____al *n.* a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed
19. 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

ANSWERS: 9. contemplate, 10. slack, 11. demote, 12. unremarkable, 13. timeless, 14. tweet, 15. arbiter, 16. troublesome, 17. abridge, 18. pedestal, 19. fad

20. qu___t cottage *adj.* attractively or charmingly old-fashioned or unusual often used to describe something with a pleasingly unusual or quirky appearance or manner
21. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
22. pe___e the document *v.* to read or examine something carefully and thoroughly
23. ware a go__y hat *adj.* silly or foolish
24. fa____h clothing style *adj.* characterized by following or adopting a passing fashion or trend without much thought or consideration; prone to being fashionable for a brief time and then losing popularity
25. ad____le baby *adj.* inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable
26. official pro_____ent *n.* a formal or authoritative statement or announcement, especially one issued by a governing body or public official
27. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
28. le____t punishment *adj.* not harsh or strict; tolerant; forgiving; allowing for freedom or flexibility
29. con_____te a marriage *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
30. pr_____ce a name *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

ANSWERS: 20. quaint, 21. doe, 22. peruse, 23. goofy, 24. faddish, 25. adorable, 26. pronouncement, 27. tweet, 28. lenient, 29. contemplate, 30. pronounce

31. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
32. qu___t village *adj.* attractively or charmingly old-fashioned or unusual often used to describe something with a pleasingly unusual or quirky appearance or manner
33. undertake a tro_____me task *adj.* causing difficulty or annoyance for someone
34. trending ha_____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
35. do_____ht impossible *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
36. de_____e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
37. co_____ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
38. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
39. unr_____ble in looks *adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting
40. with a go__y expression *adj.* silly or foolish

ANSWERS: 31. app, 32. quaint, 33. troublesome, 34. hashtag, 35. downright, 36. degrade, 37. colonize, 38. frightening, 39. unremarkable, 40. goofy

41. a bo____h remark *adj.* behaving in a rude, ill-mannered, or uncultured way; lacking in social graces or sensitivity towards others
42. marked with a ha____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
43. professional ar____r *n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
44. pe____al sink *n.* a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed
45. pr____ce a judgment *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
46. distinguished aca____an *n.* a person who is a member of an academy, especially in the arts or sciences; a person who is an expert in a particular field of study or knowledge
47. pro____ce in society *n.* the state of being important, easily seen, or well known
48. arbitrary bur____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
49. de____te economy *v.* to destroy a significant portion of something or reduce by ten percent; to cause extensive destruction or severe damage; to drastically reduce in size or number

ANSWERS: 41. boorish, 42. hashtag, 43. arbiter, 44. pedestal, 45. pronounce, 46. academician, 47. prominence, 48. bureaucracy, 49. decimate

50. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
51. an ill_____ate occupation *adj.* not legally valid or recognized
52. de_____te population *v.* to destroy a significant portion of something or reduce by ten percent; to cause extensive destruction or severe damage; to drastically reduce in size or number
53. ret_____ct review *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished
54. bo_____h language *adj.* behaving in a rude, ill-mannered, or uncultured way; lacking in social graces or sensitivity towards others
55. do_____ht nonsense *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
56. de_____e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
57. cr___y toddler *adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; bad-tempered; in a state of discomfort or pain, often resulting in irritability or moodiness
58. sl__g phrases *n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context

ANSWERS: 50. fascinate, 51. illegitimate, 52. decimate, 53. retrospect, 54. boorish, 55. downright, 56. degrade, 57. cranky, 58. slang

59. re___e song v. to create a new version of a work of art, such as a film, song, or play, using the same or similar material as the original; to adapt or update something for a new audience or purpose; (noun) a new version or adaptation of a previously existing movie, song, TV show, or other creative work
60. Internet sl__g n. informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
61. fri_____ng experience adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
62. dis_____ate the balance v. to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate
63. killer a_p n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
64. aca_____an community n. a person who is a member of an academy, especially in the arts or sciences; a person who is an expert in a particular field of study or knowledge
65. il_____al argument adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
66. s__m off the top v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface

ANSWERS: 59. remake, 60. slang, 61. frightening, 62. discombobulate, 63. app, 64. academician, 65. illogical, 66. skim

67. 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
68. le____t rules *adj.* not harsh or strict; tolerant; forgiving; allowing for freedom or flexibility
69. foreign li____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
70. a local di____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
71. ba____h my wrinkles *v.* to expel or send away from a place or situation, especially permanently
72. minority di____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
73. earn pro____ce *n.* the state of being important, easily seen, or well known
74. ga____e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
75. fa____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
76. cr____y mood *adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; bad-tempered; in a state of discomfort or pain, often resulting in irritability or moodiness

ANSWERS: 67. fad, 68. lenient, 69. linguist, 70. dialect, 71. banish, 72. dialect, 73. prominence, 74. gamble, 75. fascinate, 76. cranky

77. ill_____ate claim *adj.* not legally valid or recognized
78. ba___h doubt *v.* to expel or send away from a place or situation, especially permanently
79. ti_____ss masterpiece *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
80. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
81. cognitive li_____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
82. fa_____h diet *adj.* characterized by following or adopting a passing fashion or trend without much thought or consideration; prone to being fashionable for a brief time and then losing popularity
83. pe___e every page of a book *v.* to read or examine something carefully and thoroughly
84. de___e an employee *v.* to lower in rank, position, or status; to reduce or downgrade someone's authority or responsibilities
85. ad_____le puppy *adj.* inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable
86. s__m the surface of the water *v.* to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface
87. dis_____ate the competition *v.* to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate

ANSWERS: 77. illegitimate, 78. banish, 79. timeless, 80. incentivize, 81. linguist, 82. faddish, 83. peruse, 84. demote, 85. adorable, 86. skim, 87. discombobulate

88. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
89. il_____al reasoning *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
90. wo_____me issue *adj.* causing worry, trouble, or anxiety; indicating the possible presence of danger, difficulty, or harm
91. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
92. with hindsight ret_____ct *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

ANSWERS: 88. colonize, 89. illogical, 90. worrisome, 91. doe, 92. retrospect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I had to _____ the novel to fit it into the time allotted for the movie.
 - v. to shorten or condense a book, a play, a speech, etc., while maintaining its essence

2. The statue was placed on a _____ in the center of the park.
 - n. a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed

3. The bumbling _____ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.
 - n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

4. The director plans to _____ the classic movie with a modern twist.
 - v. to create a new version of a work of art, such as a film, song, or play, using the same or similar material as the original; to adapt or update something for a new audience or purpose; (noun) a new version or adaptation of a previously existing movie, song, TV show, or other creative work

5. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.
 - v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

6. She _____ the menu before ordering her meal.
 - v. to read or examine something carefully and thoroughly

7. The _____ by the king declared that war was imminent and all non-disabled men were to report for duty.
 - n. a formal or authoritative statement or announcement, especially one issued by a governing body or public official

ANSWERS: 1. abridge, 2. pedestal, 3. bureaucracy, 4. remake, 5. pronounce, 6. perused, 7. pronouncement

8. The _____ old town was full of historic buildings and charming shops.
adj. attractively or charmingly old-fashioned or unusual often used to describe something with a pleasingly unusual or quirky appearance or manner
9. He showed _____ behavior by burping loudly at the formal dinner.
adj. behaving in a rude, ill-mannered, or uncultured way; lacking in social graces or sensitivity towards others
10. The hurricane _____ the small town, leaving behind destruction and devastation.
v. to destroy a significant portion of something or reduce by ten percent; to cause extensive destruction or severe damage; to drastically reduce in size or number
11. A lot of _____ words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.
n. informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
12. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
13. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
14. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 8. quaint, 9. boorish, 10. decimated, 11. slang, 12. doe, 13. frightening, 14. app's

15. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.

- v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

16. I like to _____ the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.

- v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface

17. He made a _____ face as he recalled this morning's events.

- adj.* silly or foolish

18. The team's _____ attitude towards deadlines caused the project to fall behind schedule.

- adj.* lacking in tension or firmness; loose or not tight; having a relaxed or lazy attitude

19. I recently _____ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

- v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

20. The magic tricks _____ the children.

- v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

21. The queen _____ the traitor from the kingdom, never to be seen again.

- v. to expel or send away from a place or situation, especially permanently

22. The _____ trend of wearing neon clothing quickly faded away.

- adj.* characterized by following or adopting a passing fashion or trend without much thought or consideration; prone to being fashionable for a brief time and then losing popularity

ANSWERS: 15. degrade, 16. skim, 17. goofy, 18. slack, 19. contemplated, 20. fascinated, 21. banished, 22. faddish

23. There is a _____ aspect to his most remarkable work.
adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
24. The _____ research is widely cited in scientific literature.
n. a person who is a member of an academy, especially in the arts or sciences; a person who is an expert in a particular field of study or knowledge
25. His argument made no sense and was completely _____.
adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
26. The _____ of the dispute will be an impartial judge.
n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
27. The sudden power surge threatened to _____ the entire computer system.
v. to confuse, disconcert, upset, or frustrate
28. His poor performance caused the coach to _____ him to the bench.
v. to lower in rank, position, or status; to reduce or downgrade someone's authority or responsibilities
29. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
30. In _____ I wish I had made a different decision.
n. a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

ANSWERS: 23. timeless, 24. academician's, 25. illogical, 26. arbiter, 27. discombobulate, 28. demote, 29. colonized, 30. retrospect,

31. 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

32. He had to resolve a _____ event that happened unexpectedly

- adj.* causing difficulty or annoyance for someone

33. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

- v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

34. I feel _____ today; please forgive me if I seem irritable.

- adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; bad-tempered; in a state of discomfort or pain, often resulting in irritability or moodiness

35. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.

- n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

36. The teacher was _____ with the deadline for the project, giving the students extra time to finish.

- adj.* not harsh or strict; tolerant; forgiving; allowing for freedom or flexibility

37. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?

- v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

38. He was very busy at work but otherwise led an _____ life.

- adj.* ordinary and not particularly interesting

ANSWERS: 31. fad, 32. troublesome, 33. incentivize, 34. cranky, 35. tweet, 36. lenient, 37. gamble, 38. unremarkable

39. He achieved _____ in the field of medicine with his groundbreaking research.

n. the state of being important, easily seen, or well known

40. The _____ spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

41. The _____ news about the impending storm caused many people to evacuate.

adj. causing worry, trouble, or anxiety; indicating the possible presence of danger, difficulty, or harm

42. My friend's daughter is _____ with curly hair and big brown eyes.

adj. inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable

43. He had an _____ child that he never acknowledged.

adj. not legally valid or recognized

44. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

45. It was a _____ lie that he would attend the event.

adj. (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely

46. Our brand's campaign uses a unique _____ to track engagement and reach.

n. a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic

ANSWERS: 39. prominence, 40. dialect, 41. worrisome, 42. adorable, 43. illegitimate, 44. linguist, 45. downright, 46. hashtag

ANSWERS: