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Bob Mankoff: Anatomy of a New Yorker cartoon | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

benign

adj. kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious

synonym: kind, gentle, harmless

(1) **benign** tumor, (2) a **benign** smile

The lump was discovered to be **benign**, and no further treatment was needed.

antidepressant

n. any of a class of drugs used to reduce feelings of sadness and worry

(1) an **antidepressant** drug, (2) **antidepressant** effect

She has been taking **antidepressants** since her baby died.

discotheque

n. a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance

synonym: nightclub, dance club, disco

(1) **discotheque** party, (2) **discotheque** scene

He couldn't wait to hit the **discotheque** and dance the night away.

anesthetic

n. a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain

synonym: sedative, anesthesia, painkiller

(1) **anesthetic** injection, (2) local **anesthetic**

The dentist administered an **anesthetic** to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.

contagion

n. the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another

synonym: infection, disease, transmission

(1) a **contagion** of fear, (2) **contagion** effect

The government has implemented measures to prevent the **contagion** of COVID-19, such as social distancing and mandatory mask-wearing.

frisson

n. a sudden intense feeling or thrill, often accompanied by shivers or goosebumps, typically brought on by excitement, anticipation, or a strong emotional response

synonym: shiver, thrill, goosebumps

(1) sense of **frisson**, (2) spine-tingling **frisson**

The scary movie gave me a **frisson** of fear, sending shivers down my spine.

matte

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

synonym: dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

quitter

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

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

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

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

segue

v. to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another

synonym: transit, move, shift

(1) **segue** the conversation, (2) **segue** between topics

He smoothly **segued** from one topic to the next during his presentation.

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.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

revered

v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

synonym: respected, admired, honored

(1) **revered** figure, (2) the most **revered** President

The **revered** teacher was loved by her students.

blur

n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym: smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym: condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

defy

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

synonym: challenge, resist, disobey

(1) **defy** gravity, (2) **defy** authority

She tried to **defy** her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

incongruity

n. the state or quality of being incongruous or lacking harmony or agreement; a lack of consistency or appropriateness

synonym: discrepancy, inconsistency, paradox

(1) an **incongruity** in language, (2) ironic **incongruity**

The meeting ended with an **incongruity** between what was agreed upon and what was actually implemented.

synergy

n. the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements

synonym: cooperation, collaboration, partnership

(1) **synergy** collaboration, (2) **synergy** between businesses

The new software program was designed to increase productivity by promoting employee **synergy**.

mash

- v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions;
(noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

synonym : crush, grind, pulverize

(1) **mash** his words, (2) potato **mash**

She **mashed** the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

propriety

- n.* the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct

synonym : appropriateness, correctness, decorum

(1) a breach of **propriety**, (2) **propriety** etiquette

The company's code of **propriety** requires all employees to dress professionally.

vulgarity

- n.* behavior, language, or actions that are crude, socially unacceptable, or offensive; lack of refinement or taste; indecency or obscenity

synonym : crudeness, coarseness, indecency

(1) verbal **vulgarity**, (2) crude **vulgarity**

His speech was filled with unnecessary **vulgarity** and offended many audience members.

dissect

- v.* to cut into pieces to study the structure of something in detail

synonym : analyze, examine, study

(1) **dissect** the data, (2) **dissect** a personality

The scientist **dissected** the frog to study its internal organs.

fop

- n.* a man who is excessively concerned with his appearance, manners, and clothes, often to the point of being considered vain or overly self-conscious; a dandy or a man who is overly concerned with fashion and style

synonym : dandy, clotheshorse, coxcomb

(1) arrogant **fop**, (2) stylish **fop**

The wealthy **fop** strutted around town, flaunting his expensive clothes and accessories.

exaggerate

v. to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is

synonym : overstate, overestimate, amplify

(1) **exaggerate** in degree, (2) **exaggerate** story

She **exaggerated** the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.

rye

n. a hardy cereal grain commonly used for its grain, flour, or straw, typically used in baking, distilling spirits, or as a cover crop for soil improvement

synonym : grain, barley, wheat

(1) **rye** bread, (2) **rye** whiskey

Rye flour can be used to make delicious and hearty bread.

sourdough

n. a type of bread made from a fermented mixture of flour and water known as a "starter" that develops a sour taste and aroma due to the presence of naturally occurring bacteria and yeast

(1) crusty **sourdough**, (2) **sourdough** starter

I am making homemade **sourdough** bread from scratch for the first time.

mustard

n. a yellow or brown condiment that tastes spicy made from the seeds of various plants; (adjective) between yellow and brown

synonym : condiment, sauce, spice

(1) **mustard** leaf, (2) black **mustard** seed

He had to endure the **mustard** gas attack during the war.

siren

n. a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger

synonym : alarm, warning, alert

(1) fire truck **siren**, (2) police **siren**

I heard the **siren** of an ambulance and moved my car to the side of the road.

exaggeration

n. an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

synonym: hyperbole, overstatement, embellishment

(1) sensational **exaggeration**, (2) minimal **exaggeration**

His story was filled with obvious **exaggerations**.

bum

n. a person who is homeless or lives in poverty; a lazy, shiftless, or worthless person; a beggar; a person who spends time doing nothing productive

synonym: hobo, vagrant, tramp

(1) homeless **bum**, (2) lazy **bum**

He used to be a successful businessman, but now he's a washed-up **bum** with nothing to show.

booze

n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits

synonym: alcohol, liquor, spirits

(1) cheap **booze**, (2) drown your sorrows in **booze**

The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive **booze** consumption.

ventriloquist

n. a performer who entertains by making their voice appear to come from somewhere else, often through the use of a dummy or puppet

synonym: puppeteer, voice thrower

(1) **ventriloquist** dummy, (2) **ventriloquist** act

The famous **ventriloquist** used his puppet to tell jokes and entertain the audience.

puke

v. to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

synonym: vomit, hurl, upchuck

(1) **puke** my guts, (2) **puke** in the toilet

The smell of rotting food made him **puke** in disgust.

dissection

n. the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it

synonym: cutting, slicing, dissecting

(1) **dissection** process, (2) **dissection** specimen

The **dissection** of the frog revealed its internal anatomy.

malign

v. to speak or write about someone or something in a harmful or critical way; (adjective) evil or harmful in nature or influence

synonym: defame, vilify, (adjective) evil

(1) **malign** influence, (2) **malign** the politician in the media

The article **maligned** the company's reputation with false accusations.

meta

adj. pertaining to or involving a higher or more abstract level of analysis, interpretation, or self-reference, often used to describe aspects of gaming, social media, or other online communities that involve self-conscious or self-referential elements

synonym: self-referential, introspective, recursive

(1) **meta-analysis**, (2) **meta-language**

The **meta** description of a website is an important element for search engine optimization.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

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

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

purposeful

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

synonym : determined, resolved, resolute

(1) **purposeful** series of actions, (2) at a **purposeful** pace
She had a **purposeful** look and was determined to complete the task.

stimming

n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

synonym : self-stimulation, repetitive behaviors

(1) autistic **stimming**, (2) **stimming** therapy
Autistic children may engage in **stimming** behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.

transgress

v. to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

synonym : trespass, violate, infringe

(1) **transgress** boundaries, (2) **transgress** against the rules
The company was fined for **transgressing** environmental regulations.

snug

adj. comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design

synonym : cozy, comfortable, kempt

(1) **snug** blanket, (2) **snug** little house
The baby was fast asleep in his **snug** cot, swaddled in soft, warm blankets.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym : insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer
His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

martini

n. a cocktail made with gin and vermouth typically garnished with an olive or a twist of lemon peel

(1) **martini** glass, (2) shaken **martini**

I ordered a dirty **martini** with extra olives at the bar.

fundamentalist

n. a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline

synonym: extremist, zealot, hardliner

(1) **fundamentalist** church, (2) political **fundamentalist**

He is a religious **fundamentalist** and strictly adheres to the teachings of his faith.

obituary

n. a notice of someone's death, often appearing in a newspaper or online; a published account of someone's life and achievements after their death

synonym: death notice, memorial, necrology

(1) **obituary** notice, (2) **obituary** column

The man's **obituary** was published in the local newspaper.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

synonym: aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else

Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

pinpoint

v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

synonym: name, direct, identify

(1) **pinpoint** the problem, (2) **pinpoint** signs of manipulation

This radar quickly **pinpoints** the position of the enemy.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

narcissist

n. a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements

synonym: egotist, boaster, braggart

(1) relationship with a **narcissist**, (2) somatic **narcissist**
He thinks she is a high **narcissist** because she always talks about herself and her accomplishments.

foible

n. a minor weakness or flaw in character or behavior that is considered forgivable or acceptable

synonym: shortcoming, weakness, flaw

(1) personal **foible**, (2) mental **foibles**

One of his many **foibles** was his obsession with collecting antique teacups.

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

lassie

n. a young girl or woman; the name of a famous fictional character, a Rough Collie dog in a series of books and movies

synonym: girl, miss, maiden

(1) **lassie** in the village, (2) playful **lassie**

The wee **lassie** approached the school with a bright smile on her face.

puzzling

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

synonym: baffling, confusing, enigmatic

(1) **puzzling** behavior, (2) **puzzling** questions

The detective found the clues **puzzling** and couldn't solve the case immediately.

smorgasbord

n. a variety or assortment of different options, choices, or offerings; a buffet-style meal with a wide range of dishes

synonym: buffet, feast, banquet

(1) **smorgasbord** buffet, (2) delicious **smorgasbord**

The buffet had a **smorgasbord** of food options, from sushi to

pasta to desserts.

Session 2: Spelling

1. co_____ss gas
v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
2. re_____d figure
v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
3. photo with a ma__e finish
adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
4. of____d a customer
v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
5. dis_____on process
n. the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it
6. s__g blanket
adj. comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design
7. lazy b_m
n. a person who is homeless or lives in poverty; a lazy, shiftless, or worthless person; a beggar; a person who spends time doing nothing productive
8. cheap bo__e
n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
9. co_____ss the chest
v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
10. mental fo____es
n. a minor weakness or flaw in character or behavior that is considered forgivable or acceptable
11. se__e the conversation
v. to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another

ANSWERS: 1. compress, 2. revered, 3. matte, 4. offend, 5. dissection, 6. snug, 7. bum, 8. booze, 9. compress, 10. foible, 11. segue

12. ob____ry notice *n.* a notice of someone's death, often appearing in a newspaper or online; a published account of someone's life and achievements after their death
13. verbal vu_____ty *n.* behavior, language, or actions that are crude, socially unacceptable, or offensive; lack of refinement or taste; indecency or obscenity
14. mu_____d leaf *n.* a yellow or brown condiment that tastes spicy made from the seeds of various plants; (adjective) between yellow and brown
15. an inc_____ty in language *n.* the state or quality of being incongruous or lacking harmony or agreement; a lack of consistency or appropriateness
16. pu_____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
17. arrogant f_p *n.* a man who is excessively concerned with his appearance, manners, and clothes, often to the point of being considered vain or overly self-conscious; a dandy or a man who is overly concerned with fashion and style
18. sense of fr_____n *n.* a sudden intense feeling or thrill, often accompanied by shivers or goosebumps, typically brought on by excitement, anticipation, or a strong emotional response
19. p__e in the toilet *v.* to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

ANSWERS: 12. obituary, 13. vulgarity, 14. mustard, 15. incongruity, 16. puzzling, 17. fop, 18. frisson, 19. puke

20. the most re_____d President *v.* highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
21. ant_____ant effect *n.* any of a class of drugs used to reduce feelings of sadness and worry
22. smo_____rd buffet *n.* a variety or assortment of different options, choices, or offerings; a buffet-style meal with a wide range of dishes
23. tra_____ss boundaries *v.* to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something
24. m__a-analysis *adj.* pertaining to or involving a higher or more abstract level of analysis, interpretation, or self-reference, often used to describe aspects of gaming, social media, or other online communities that involve self-conscious or self-referential elements
25. relationship with a nar_____st *n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements
26. en_____e a check with a letter *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
27. st_____ng therapy *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

ANSWERS: 20. revered, 21. antidepressant, 22. smorgasbord, 23. transgress, 24. meta, 25. narcissist, 26. enclose, 27. stimming

28. playful la___e *n.* a young girl or woman; the name of a famous fictional character, a Rough Collie dog in a series of books and movies
29. free from am_____ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
30. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
31. r_e whiskey *n.* a hardy cereal grain commonly used for its grain, flour, or straw, typically used in baking, distilling spirits, or as a cover crop for soil improvement
32. pi_____nt signs of manipulation *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
33. pu_____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
34. pi_____nt the problem *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
35. a co_____on of fear *n.* the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
36. a breach of pr_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct
37. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 28. lassie, 29. ambiguity, 30. quitter, 31. rye, 32. pinpoint, 33. puzzling, 34. pinpoint, 35. contagion, 36. propriety, 37. opportune

38. d__y gravity *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
39. autistic st_____ng *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
40. s__g little house *adj.* comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design
41. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
42. b__r image *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
43. black mu_____d seed *n.* a yellow or brown condiment that tastes spicy made from the seeds of various plants; (adjective) between yellow and brown
44. pr_____ty etiquette *n.* the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct
45. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
46. exa_____te story *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is

ANSWERS: 38. defy, 39. stimming, 40. snug, 41. improvisation, 42. blur, 43. mustard, 44. propriety, 45. annoy, 46. exaggerate

47. sy____y collaboration *n.* the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
48. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
49. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
50. of___d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
51. ob_____ry column *n.* a notice of someone's death, often appearing in a newspaper or online; a published account of someone's life and achievements after their death
52. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
53. minimal exa_____ion *n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
54. political fun_____ist *n.* a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline
55. crude vu_____ty *n.* behavior, language, or actions that are crude, socially unacceptable, or offensive; lack of refinement or taste; indecency or obscenity
56. ma_____i glass *n.* a cocktail made with gin and vermouth typically garnished with an olive or a twist of lemon peel

ANSWERS: 47. synergy, 48. Arthurian, 49. obsession, 50. offend, 51. obituary, 52. annoy, 53. exaggeration, 54. fundamentalist, 55. vulgarity, 56. martini

57. di____t a personality *v.* to cut into pieces to study the structure of something in detail
58. en____e area *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
59. be____n tumor *adj.* kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious
60. d__y authority *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
61. sy____y between businesses *n.* the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
62. imp______ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
63. potato m__h *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
64. exa____te in degree *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
65. delicious smo____rd *n.* a variety or assortment of different options, choices, or offerings; a buffet-style meal with a wide range of dishes
66. a be____n smile *adj.* kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious

ANSWERS: 57. dissect, 58. enclose, 59. benign, 60. defy, 61. synergy, 62. improvisation, 63. mash, 64. exaggerate, 65. smorgasbord, 66. benign

67. motion b__r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
68. ane_____ic injection *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
69. ma___n the politician in the media *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a harmful or critical way; (adjective) evil or harmful in nature or influence
70. pur_____ul series of actions *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
71. Ar_____an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
72. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
73. avoid am_____ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
74. local ane_____ic *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
75. dis_____on specimen *n.* the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it

ANSWERS: 67. blur, 68. anesthetic, 69. malign, 70. purposeful, 71. Arthurian, 72. opportune, 73. ambiguity, 74. anesthetic, 75. dissection

76. crusty so_____gh *n.* a type of bread made from a fermented mixture of flour and water known as a "starter" that develops a sour taste and aroma due to the presence of naturally occurring bacteria and yeast
77. ma___n influence *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a harmful or critical way; (adjective) evil or harmful in nature or influence
78. drown your sorrows in bo__e *n.* an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
79. so_____gh starter *n.* a type of bread made from a fermented mixture of flour and water known as a "starter" that develops a sour taste and aroma due to the presence of naturally occurring bacteria and yeast
80. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
81. homeless b_m *n.* a person who is homeless or lives in poverty; a lazy, shiftless, or worthless person; a beggar; a person who spends time doing nothing productive
82. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
83. p__e my guts *v.* to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

ANSWERS: 76. sourdough, 77. malign, 78. booze, 79. sourdough, 80. determinant, 81. bum, 82. determinant, 83. puke

84. ven_____ist dummy *n.* a performer who entertains by making their voice appear to come from somewhere else, often through the use of a dummy or puppet
85. m__a-language *adj.* pertaining to or involving a higher or more abstract level of analysis, interpretation, or self-reference, often used to describe aspects of gaming, social media, or other online communities that involve self-conscious or self-referential elements
86. at a pur_____ul pace *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
87. stylish f_p *n.* a man who is excessively concerned with his appearance, manners, and clothes, often to the point of being considered vain or overly self-conscious; a dandy or a man who is overly concerned with fashion and style
88. spine-tingling fr_____n *n.* a sudden intense feeling or thrill, often accompanied by shivers or goosebumps, typically brought on by excitement, anticipation, or a strong emotional response
89. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
90. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
91. personal fo___e *n.* a minor weakness or flaw in character or behavior that is considered forgivable or acceptable

ANSWERS: 84. ventriloquist, 85. meta, 86. purposeful, 87. fop, 88. frisson, 89. quitter, 90. excite, 91. foible

92. tra_____ss against the rules *v.* to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something
93. somatic nar_____st *n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements
94. ob_____on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
95. shaken ma_____i *n.* a cocktail made with gin and vermouth typically garnished with an olive or a twist of lemon peel
96. co_____on effect *n.* the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
97. fun_____ist church *n.* a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline
98. dis_____ue party *n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
99. ma___e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
100. ven_____ist act *n.* a performer who entertains by making their voice appear to come from somewhere else, often through the use of a dummy or puppet
101. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 92. transgress, 93. narcissist, 94. obsession, 95. martini, 96. contagion, 97. fundamentalist, 98. discotheque, 99. matte, 100. ventriloquist, 101. excite

102. fire truck si__n *n.* a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
103. an ant_____ant drug *n.* any of a class of drugs used to reduce feelings of sadness and worry
104. r_e bread *n.* a hardy cereal grain commonly used for its grain, flour, or straw, typically used in baking, distilling spirits, or as a cover crop for soil improvement
105. m__h his words *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
106. ironic inc_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being incongruous or lacking harmony or agreement; a lack of consistency or appropriateness
107. di_____t the data *v.* to cut into pieces to study the structure of something in detail
108. police si__n *n.* a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
109. dis_____ue scene *n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
110. se__e between topics *v.* to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another

ANSWERS: 102. siren, 103. antidepressant, 104. rye, 105. mash, 106. incongruity, 107. dissect, 108. siren, 109. discotheque, 110. segue

111. sensational exa_____ion *n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
112. la___e in the village *n.* a young girl or woman; the name of a famous fictional character, a Rough Collie dog in a series of books and movies

ANSWERS: 111. exaggeration, 112. lassie

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The baby was fast asleep in his _____ cot, swaddled in soft, warm blankets.
adj. comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design

2. The scary movie gave me a _____ of fear, sending shivers down my spine.
n. a sudden intense feeling or thrill, often accompanied by shivers or goosebumps, typically brought on by excitement, anticipation, or a strong emotional response

3. His story was filled with obvious _____.
n. an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

4. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

5. She tried to _____ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.
v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

6. The smell of rotting food made him _____ in disgust.
v. to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

7. His speech was filled with unnecessary _____ and offended many audience members.
n. behavior, language, or actions that are crude, socially unacceptable, or offensive; lack of refinement or taste; indecency or obscenity

ANSWERS: 1. snug, 2. frisson, 3. exaggerations, 4. Arthurian, 5. defy, 6. puke, 7. vulgarity

8. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.
- n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
9. I heard the _____ of an ambulance and moved my car to the side of the road.
- n.* a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
10. The dentist administered an _____ to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.
- n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
11. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
- v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
12. He had to endure the _____ gas attack during the war.
- n.* a yellow or brown condiment that tastes spicy made from the seeds of various plants; (adjective) between yellow and brown
13. The body of his car has a _____ finish.
- adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
14. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 8. obsession, 9. siren, 10. anesthetic, 11. compressed, 12. mustard, 13. matte, 14. determinant

15. He is a religious _____ and strictly adheres to the teachings of his faith.
- n.* a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline
16. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
- n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
17. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
- adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
18. He couldn't wait to hit the _____ and dance the night away.
- n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
19. She _____ the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.
- v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
20. This radar quickly _____ the position of the enemy.
- v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
21. Autistic children may engage in _____ behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.
- n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
22. The man's _____ was published in the local newspaper.
- n.* a notice of someone's death, often appearing in a newspaper or online; a published account of someone's life and achievements after their death

ANSWERS: 15. fundamentalist, 16. quitter, 17. puzzling, 18. discotheque, 19. exaggerated, 20. pinpoints, 21. stimming, 22. obituary

23. I ordered a dirty _____ with extra olives at the bar.
- n.* a cocktail made with gin and vermouth typically garnished with an olive or a twist of lemon peel
24. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
- n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
25. The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive _____ consumption.
- n.* an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
26. He used to be a successful businessman, but now he's a washed-up _____ with nothing to show.
- n.* a person who is homeless or lives in poverty; a lazy, shiftless, or worthless person; a beggar; a person who spends time doing nothing productive
27. He smoothly _____ from one topic to the next during his presentation.
- v.* to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another
28. The famous _____ used his puppet to tell jokes and entertain the audience.
- n.* a performer who entertains by making their voice appear to come from somewhere else, often through the use of a dummy or puppet
29. The _____ of the frog revealed its internal anatomy.
- n.* the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it
30. The company was fined for _____ environmental regulations.
- v.* to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

ANSWERS: 23. martini, 24. improvisation, 25. booze, 26. bum, 27. segued, 28. ventriloquist, 29. dissection, 30. transgressing

31. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
32. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
33. She _____ the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.
v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
34. The new software program was designed to increase productivity by promoting employee _____.
n. the interaction of elements that, when combined, produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements
35. One of his many _____ was his obsession with collecting antique teacups.
n. a minor weakness or flaw in character or behavior that is considered forgivable or acceptable
36. The meeting ended with an _____ between what was agreed upon and what was actually implemented.
n. the state or quality of being incongruous or lacking harmony or agreement; a lack of consistency or appropriateness
37. The wealthy ____ strutted around town, flaunting his expensive clothes and accessories.
n. a man who is excessively concerned with his appearance, manners, and clothes, often to the point of being considered vain or overly self-conscious; a dandy or a man who is overly concerned with fashion and style

ANSWERS: 31. offended, 32. opportune, 33. mashed, 34. synergy, 35. foibles, 36. incongruity, 37. fop

38. The lump was discovered to be _____ and no further treatment was needed.
adj. kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious
39. 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
40. The government has implemented measures to prevent the _____ of COVID-19, such as social distancing and mandatory mask-wearing.
n. the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
41. He thinks she is a high _____ because she always talks about herself and her accomplishments.
n. a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements
42. ____ flour can be used to make delicious and hearty bread.
n. a hardy cereal grain commonly used for its grain, flour, or straw, typically used in baking, distilling spirits, or as a cover crop for soil improvement
43. The article _____ the company's reputation with false accusations.
v. to speak or write about someone or something in a harmful or critical way;
(adjective) evil or harmful in nature or influence
44. The wee _____ approached the school with a bright smile on her face.
n. a young girl or woman; the name of a famous fictional character, a Rough Collie dog in a series of books and movies
45. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.
v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

ANSWERS: 38. benign, 39. enclosed, 40. contagion, 41. narcissist, 42. Rye, 43. maligned, 44. lassie, 45. annoy

46. The _____ teacher was loved by her students.
v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
47. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
48. The _____ description of a website is an important element for search engine optimization.
adj. pertaining to or involving a higher or more abstract level of analysis, interpretation, or self-reference, often used to describe aspects of gaming, social media, or other online communities that involve self-conscious or self-referential elements
49. The scientist _____ the frog to study its internal organs.
v. to cut into pieces to study the structure of something in detail
50. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a _____ of colors and shapes.
n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
51. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
52. She has been taking _____ since her baby died.
n. any of a class of drugs used to reduce feelings of sadness and worry
53. I am making homemade _____ bread from scratch for the first time.
n. a type of bread made from a fermented mixture of flour and water known as a "starter" that develops a sour taste and aroma due to the presence of naturally occurring bacteria and yeast

ANSWERS: 46. revered, 47. excited, 48. meta, 49. dissected, 50. blur, 51. ambiguity, 52. antidepressants, 53. sourdough

54. She had a _____ look and was determined to complete the task.

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

55. The company's code of _____ requires all employees to dress professionally.

n. the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct

56. The buffet had a _____ of food options, from sushi to pasta to desserts.

n. a variety or assortment of different options, choices, or offerings; a buffet-style meal with a wide range of dishes

ANSWERS: 54. purposeful, 55. propriety, 56. smorgasbord