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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jon Mooallem: How the teddy bear taught us compassion | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

toot

v. to emit a short, high-pitched sound, often from a horn or whistle; to play a brief, typically loud, note on a musical instrument

synonym : honk, beep, blare

(1) **toot** horn, (2) **toot** a trumpet

My son plays with his toy trumpet and loves to **toot** loudly.

bugle

n. a brass wind instrument similar to a trumpet but with a more conical shape and no valves; the sound produced by the bugle or a similar instrument

synonym : trumpet, brass instrument

(1) military **bugle**, (2) **bugle** sound

The **bugle** call woke up the soldiers at dawn.

daze

n. the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise

synonym: stupor, confusion, (verb) stun

(1) walk around in a **daze**, (2) **daze** of sleep

He was in a **daze** from the sudden news and couldn't process it properly.

underweight

adj. weighing less than is normal, healthy, or expected for one's age or body type

synonym: undernourished, skinny, thin

(1) **underweight** baby, (2) **underweight** cat

The doctor expressed concern that the patient was **underweight** and needed to gain a few pounds.

mangy

adj. having mange, a skin disease in animals characterized by itching, hair loss, and formation of scabs; referring to something or someone dirty, unkempt, or in poor condition

synonym: scruffy, shabby, run-down

(1) **mangy** coat, (2) **mangy** cat

The **mangy** stray dog wandered the streets in search of food.

sparing

adj. characterized by using or giving very little of something; frugal or economical in the use of resources or materials

synonym: frugal, economical, thrifty

(1) a **sparing** amount of sugar, (2) time **sparing**

The **sparing** use of resources is important for conservation efforts.

hind

adj. situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal

synonym: back, rear, posterior

(1) **hind** toe, (2) **hind** paw

The farmer noticed a **hind** leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.

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.

prick

v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

synonym : poke, jab, sting

(1) **prick** a balloon, (2) **prick** up her ears

He accidentally **pricked** his finger with the needle.

helpless

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym : defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so **helpless** without you.

reassure

v. to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence

synonym : comfort, soothe, bolster

(1) **reassure** anxious patients, (2) **reassure** market

The pilot tried to **reassure** the customers that the planes were safe.

squishy

adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed

synonym : soft, spongy, mushy

(1) **squishy** texture, (2) a **squishy** story

The **squishy** foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.

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.

cuddle

v. to hold close and lovingly in one's arms, often for comfort or affection; to snuggle or nestle against someone or something

synonym: embrace, snuggle, hug

(1) **cuddle** buddy, (2) **cuddle** up with a book

I love to **cuddle** with my dog on the couch after a long day.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

shorthand

n. a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

synonym: stenography, speedwriting, tachygraphy

(1) learn **shorthand**, (2) write in **shorthand**

The secretary's **shorthand** was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

exterminate

v. to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds

synonym: eradicate, eliminate, wipe out

(1) **exterminate** pests, (2) **exterminate** communism

The government **exterminated** the invasive species to protect native plants and animals.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because

of the **predator's** arrival.

grizzly

n. a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair

synonym : bear, ursus, bruin

(1) **grizzly** size, (2) **grizzly** encounter

The hiker stumbled upon a **grizzly** bear in the woods and quickly retreated.

bison

n. a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison

synonym : buffalo

(1) endangered **bison**, (2) American **bison's** meat

Large herds of **bison** used to live on the plains of this area.

spasm

n. a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity

synonym : convulsion, cramp, twitch

(1) gastric **spasm**, (2) **spasm** of laughter

The patient's face twitched in **spasms** as the dentist started drilling her tooth.

unpack

v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

synonym : dissect, unwrap, unbox

(1) **unpack** a crate, (2) **unpack** a concept

I need to **unpack** my suitcase and put my clothes away.

schizophrenia

n. a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

synonym :

psychosis, disorder, mental illness

(1) **schizophrenia** spectrum disorder, (2) **schizophrenia** treatment

The **schizophrenia** patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.

astonishing

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

synonym: surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains

The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

upstate

adj. relating to or located in the region that is located in the northern part of a state or country, particularly in the United States

synonym: northern

(1) **upstate** Connecticut, (2) **upstate** region

He grew up in a small town in **upstate** New York.

dolphin

n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

synonym: porpoise, cetacean, marine mammal

(1) **dolphin** show, (2) **dolphin-watching** tour

The large group of **dolphins** swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.

entitle

v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

synonym: allow, permit, enable

(1) **entitle** him to a pension, (2) **entitle** the company to use the logo

The employee was **entitled** to a week of vacation time.

lobster

n. a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for

swimming

synonym: crustacean, crawfish, crayfish

(1) **lobster** dinner, (2) fresh **lobster**

The restaurant served a delicious **lobster**, steamed to perfection.

pigeon

n. a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

(1) a racing **pigeon**, (2) **pigeon** on the roof

The **pigeon** perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.

otter

n. a semiaquatic mammal with a sleek, streamlined body, short legs, webbed feet, and dense, soft fur, found in and around freshwater and coastal areas

(1) **otter** in the river, (2) sea- **otter** fur

The playful **otter** swam around the river, diving in and out of the water.

lovable

adj. deserving or inspiring love and affection

synonym: adorable, charming, dear

(1) **lovable** personality, (2) a **lovable** creature

The little puppy was **lovable** and had a playful personality.

ladybug

n. a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects

synonym: ladybird, lady beetle

(1) **ladybug** on a leaf, (2) **ladybug** larvae

Some species of **ladybugs** have a strong, unpleasant smell and are also called stink bugs.

sympathize

v. to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences

synonym: empathize, understand, commiserate

(1) **sympathize** with a tragic hero, (2) **sympathize** with their situation

I **sympathize** with your struggles and am here to support you through them.

poly

n. (a prefix meaning "many" or "much") commonly used in chemistry, biology, and other sciences to indicate a large, complex structure or molecule that is made up of repeating units, such as polyester, polymer

synonym: plastic, polymer, resin

(1) reclosable **poly** bag, (2) biodegradable **poly**

We store all of our drinking water in a large **poly** tank on the roof of our house.

penguin

n. a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait

(1) Adelie **penguin**, (2) **penguin** habitat

We took a boat tour to witness the magnificent **penguin** colony along the rugged coastline.

glacier

n. a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole

synonym: iceberg, ice floe

(1) **glacier** retreat, (2) **glaciers** move tardily

The **glaciers** of the ice age have shaped Fjord.

ferocious

adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel

synonym: savage, fierce, brutal

(1) **ferocious** beast, (2) **ferocious** predator

The lion's **ferocious** roar could be heard from miles away.

urbanize

v. to make an area more urban in character or nature, often through the development and expansion of cities or towns

synonym: develop, modernize, city-build

(1) **urbanize** a region, (2) **urbanize** transportation systems

The government plans to **urbanize** the rural area by building more housing units and improving transportation infrastructure.

reconsider

v. to think about a decision or opinion again to

synonym: rethink, review, revisit

(1) **reconsider** the determination, (2) **reconsider** my transfer

He humbly **reconsidered** his conduct.

romanticize

v. to make something seem more attractive or appealing than it is, especially by exaggerating or idealizing its qualities; to view or present something in a romantic or sentimental way

synonym: idealize, glorify, sentimentalize

(1) **romanticize** the past, (2) **romanticize** the idea of love

It is easy to **romanticize** a new job or opportunity, but it is important to remain objective and realistic about the challenges that come with it

empath

n. a person who can understand and share the feelings and experiences of others, often described as having a high degree of empathy

(1) **empath** skills, (2) **empath** in a corporate environment

Being an **empath** in a relationship requires the partner to understand the empath's unique emotional needs.

underdog

n. a person or group in a competition or situation that is expected to lose or be at a disadvantage; a person or group that is seen as less powerful or less favored than others in a social, political, or economic context

synonym: loser, victim

(1) cheer for the **underdog**, (2) classic **underdog** story

The **underdog** team pulled off a stunning upset against the heavily favored opponent.

exert

v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
synonym : exert, apply, use

(1) **exert** control, (2) **exert** influence

He **exerted** himself to lift the heavyweight.

unsettle

v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation

synonym : aggravate, annoy, disturb

(1) **unsettle** the nervous system, (2) **unsettle** his conviction

This nationwide strike may **unsettle** the country's economy.

floe

n. a sheet of floating ice detached from a larger glacier or ice sheet

synonym : iceberg, ice pack

(1) floating **floe**, (2) melting **floe**

The ship had to navigate around a large ice **floe** in the Arctic Ocean.

morose

adj. having a sullen and gloomy disposition; characterized by a persistent and unchanging negative attitude

synonym : gloomy, sullen, melancholic

(1) **morose** attitude, (2) **morose** atmosphere

He became **morose** after his favorite team lost the game.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym : douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

arctic

adj. of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold

synonym : cold, frozen, polar

(1) **arctic** ice, (2) high **arctic**

Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the

arctic climate.

devour

v. to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly

synonym : consume, swallow, destroy

(1) **devour** a meal, (2) **devour** my way

She **devoured** the mystery novel in one sitting.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym : frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

thirst

n. a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something

synonym : craving, desire, appetite

(1) a burning **thirst**, (2) **thirst** for authority

He read books to quench his **thirst** for knowledge.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym : defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

blameless

adj. without fault or guilt

synonym : guiltless, innocent, sinless

(1) **blameless** victim, (2) live a **blameless** life

The judge declared the defendant **blameless**.

postscript

n. (also denoted as "P.S. ") an additional remark or note added at the end of a letter or other document after the main body has been completed; something that is added as an afterthought or supplemental information

synonym : P.S., addendum, afterword

(1) **postscript** message, (2) short **postscript**

I wrote a **postscript** at the bottom of the invitation, informing

guests to bring their drinks.

craze

n. an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad

synonym: mania, fad, agitation

(1) **craze** for speculation, (2) fitness **craze**

We experienced a **craze** for electric vehicles as interest in green tech grew.

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**.

inaugurate

v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

synonym: initiate, launch, commence

(1) **inaugurate** an enterprise, (2) **inaugurate** a new policy

The president will **inaugurate** the new embassy building next week.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

possum

n. a small nocturnal marsupial found in America or Australia that lives in trees and carries its young in a skin pocket called a pouch

(1) play **possum**, (2) a full grown **possum**

Marsupials include koalas, **possums**, and kangaroos.

opossum

n. a nocturnal marsupial with grayish-white fur, a long naked pink tail, and a head with a pointed snout and sharp teeth; also called "possum" in some regions

synonym : coon, marsupial

(1) **opossum** habitat, (2) Virginia **opossum**

An **opossum's** tail is prehensile, which helps it climb and maintain balance.

roast

v. to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven

synonym : bake, broil, grill

(1) **roast** coffee beans, (2) **roast** beef

The chef **roasted** the chicken to perfection in the oven.

relegate

v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote

synonym : demote, assign, transfer

(1) **relegate** a matter to another authority, (2) **relegate** task

The underperforming team was **relegated** to a lower division.

backstory

n. the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known

synonym : history, background, prehistory

(1) the **backstory** about this sweet moment, (2) **backstory** plot

The **backstory** of the main character added depth to the story.

menace

n. a person or thing that is likely to cause harm or danger; a threat or perceived threat

synonym : threat, danger, hazard

(1) invisible **menace**, (2) potential **menace**

The reckless driver was a **menace** to other drivers on the road.

stature

n. the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community

synonym : height, standing, prestige

(1) **stature** enhancement, (2) short **stature**

A leader needs to have a **stature** that commands respect from their followers.

indifference

n. a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something

synonym : apathy, disinterest, unconcern

(1) **indifference** to pain, (2) general **indifference**

I tried to assume an air of **indifference**.

ominous

adj. giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding

synonym : foreboding, portentous, ominous

(1) an **ominous** silence, (2) **ominous** sign

The **ominous** clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

hands-on

adj. actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something

synonym : practical, involved, hands-in

(1) **hands-on** activity, (2) take a **hands-on** approach

The **hands-on** workshop allowed attendees to work with tools and materials, developing their skills in a hands-on environment.

condor

n. a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America

synonym : eagle, vulture, raptor

(1) **condor** population, (2) endangered **condor**

The majestic **condor** soared through the sky, captivating everyone's attention.

perch

v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

synonym : sit, roost, squat

(1) **perch** on a ledge, (2) **perch** of a bird of prey

The bird **perched** on the branch, watching the world below.

whoop

v. to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise

synonym : yell, shout, cheer

(1) **whoop** with joy, (2) **whoop** it up at a party

The winning team began to **whoop** and holler with excitement.

ferret

n. a small, carnivorous mammal with a long slender body and a pointed snout, often used for hunting rats or other small animals; (verb) to search persistently and relentlessly for something, often in a secretive or concealed manner, as if hunting with a ferret

synonym : weasel, stoat, polecat

(1) **ferret** food, (2) **ferret** out the truth

I love to watch my pet **ferret** play with its toys.

pygmy

adj. relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale

synonym : tiny, miniature, dwarfish

(1) **pygmy** squirrel, (2) **pygmy** forest

The **pygmy** marmoset is the smallest monkey species in the world.

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

annihilate

v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist

synonym: destroy, obliterate, eradicate

(1) **annihilate** the enemy, (2) **annihilate** all doubts

The virus had the potential to **annihilate** entire populations if left unchecked.

micromanagement

n. a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments

synonym: control-freak management, nit-picking, excessive supervision

(1) **micromanagement** approach, (2) **micromanagement** techniques

His manager's **micromanagement** style drove him crazy, making him feel like he couldn't make any decisions on his own.

indefinitely

adv. without any fixed or definite limit; for an unknown or unspecified period of time

synonym: endlessly, permanently, perpetually

(1) postpone a meeting **indefinitely**, (2) **indefinitely** suspended

The construction project has been delayed **indefinitely** due to the pandemic.

domesticate

v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

synonym: tame, naturalize, cultivate

(1) easy to **domesticate**, (2) **domesticate** the plant

We **domesticate** cows to gain milk and meat.

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.

irrational

adj. not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers

synonym: illogical, ludicrous, senseless

(1) an **irrational** request, (2) **irrational** numbers

They continued to endure **irrational** treatment by the dictatorship.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

allegory

n. a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals

synonym: fable, apologue, parable

(1) political **allegory**, (2) subtle, multivalent **allegory**

By using this **allegory**, we can teach moral lessons.

ethos

n. the set of beliefs and attitudes that belong to a particular community, nation, ideology, or a person

synonym : principles, ideology, philosophy

(1) **ethos** of science, (2) corporate **ethos**

Medical students need to acquire not only knowledge but also a professional **ethos** of a doctor.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. rec_____er my transfer | <i>v.</i> to think about a decision or opinion again to |
| 2. melting f__e | <i>n.</i> a sheet of floating ice detached from a larger glacier or ice sheet |
| 3. fitness cr__e | <i>n.</i> an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad |
| 4. fe___t food | <i>n.</i> a small, carnivorous mammal with a long slender body and a pointed snout, often used for hunting rats or other small animals; (verb) to search persistently and relentlessly for something, often in a secretive or concealed manner, as if hunting with a ferret |
| 5. gl_____rs move tardily | <i>n.</i> a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole |
| 6. ext_____te communism | <i>v.</i> to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds |
| 7. t__t horn | <i>v.</i> to emit a short, high-pitched sound, often from a horn or whistle; to play a brief, typically loud, note on a musical instrument |
| 8. ex__t influence | <i>v.</i> to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play |

ANSWERS: 1. reconsider, 2. floe, 3. craze, 4. ferret, 5. glacier, 6. exterminate, 7. toot, 8. exert

9. th__t for authority *n.* a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something
10. st___e enhancement *n.* the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community
11. cu___e buddy *v.* to hold close and lovingly in one's arms, often for comfort or affection; to snuggle or nestle against someone or something
12. h__d paw *adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
13. 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
14. military bu__e *n.* a brass wind instrument similar to a trumpet but with a more conical shape and no valves; the sound produced by the bugle or a similar instrument
15. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
16. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
17. ar___c ice *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
18. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
19. subtle, multivalent al____ry *n.* a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals

ANSWERS: 9. thirst, 10. stature, 11. cuddle, 12. hind, 13. bum, 14. bugle, 15. frightening, 16. drown, 17. arctic, 18. terrifying, 19. allegory

20. a lo____e creature *adj.* deserving or inspiring love and affection
21. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
22. 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
23. write in sh_____nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
24. mic_____ent techniques *n.* a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments
25. 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
26. ur_____ze transportation systems *v.* to make an area more urban in character or nature, often through the development and expansion of cities or towns
27. 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: 20. lovable, 21. astonishing, 22. fad, 23. shorthand, 24. micromanagement, 25. bum, 26. urbanize, 27. retrospect

28. fe___t out the truth *n.* a small, carnivorous mammal with a long slender body and a pointed snout, often used for hunting rats or other small animals; (verb) to search persistently and relentlessly for something, often in a secretive or concealed manner, as if hunting with a ferret
29. di____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
30. rom_____ze the past *v.* to make something seem more attractive or appealing than it is, especially by exaggerating or idealizing its qualities; to view or present something in a romantic or sentimental way
31. general ind_____nce *n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
32. floating f__e *n.* a sheet of floating ice detached from a larger glacier or ice sheet
33. ro__t coffee beans *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
34. sym_____ze with a tragic hero *v.* to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences

ANSWERS: 28. ferret, 29. disrupt, 30. romanticize, 31. indifference, 32. floe, 33. roast, 34. sympathize

35. fe_____us predator *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
36. biodegradable p__y *n.* (a prefix meaning "many" or "much") commonly used in chemistry, biology, and other sciences to indicate a large, complex structure or molecule that is made up of repeating units, such as polyester, polymer
37. re_____re market *v.* to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence
38. ro__t beef *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
39. rom_____ze the idea of love *v.* to make something seem more attractive or appealing than it is, especially by exaggerating or idealizing its qualities; to view or present something in a romantic or sentimental way
40. the ba_____ry about this sweet moment *n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
41. ann_____te the enemy *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
42. py__y forest *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale
43. sea-ot__r fur *n.* a semiaquatic mammal with a sleek, streamlined body, short legs, webbed feet, and dense, soft fur, found in and around freshwater and coastal areas

ANSWERS: 35. ferocious, 36. poly, 37. reassure, 38. roast, 39. romanticize, 40. backstory, 41. annihilate, 42. pygmy, 43. otter

44. dom_____te the plant *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
45. la_____g on a leaf *n.* a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects
46. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
47. invisible me___e *n.* a person or thing that is likely to cause harm or danger; a threat or perceived threat
48. corporate et__s *n.* the set of beliefs and attitudes that belong to a particular community, nation, ideology, or a person
49. learn sh_____nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
50. em___h skills *n.* a person who can understand and share the feelings and experiences of others, often described as having a high degree of empathy
51. et__s of science *n.* the set of beliefs and attitudes that belong to a particular community, nation, ideology, or a person
52. endangered co____r *n.* a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America

ANSWERS: 44. domesticate, 45. ladybug, 46. astonishing, 47. menace, 48. ethos, 49. shorthand, 50. empath, 51. ethos, 52. condor

62. sch_____nia spectrum disorder *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
63. political al_____ry *n.* a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals
64. ma__y cat *adj.* having mange, a skin disease in animals characterized by itching, hair loss, and formation of scabs; referring to something or someone dirty, unkempt, or in poor condition
65. pe_____n habitat *n.* a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait
66. classic un_____og story *n.* a person or group in a competition or situation that is expected to lose or be at a disadvantage; a person or group that is seen as less powerful or less favored than others in a social, political, or economic context
67. gastric sp__m *n.* a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity
68. re_____te a matter to another authority *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote

ANSWERS: 62. schizophrenia, 63. allegory, 64. mangy, 65. penguin, 66. underdog, 67. spasm, 68. relegate

69. pi___n on the roof *n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food
70. ind_____ely suspended *adv.* without any fixed or definite limit; for an unknown or unspecified period of time
71. cu___e up with a book *v.* to hold close and lovingly in one's arms, often for comfort or affection; to snuggle or nestle against someone or something
72. de___r a meal *v.* to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
73. lo_____e personality *adj.* deserving or inspiring love and affection
74. he_____ss victims *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
75. de___r my way *v.* to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
76. op_____m habitat *n.* a nocturnal marsupial with grayish-white fur, a long naked pink tail, and a head with a pointed snout and sharp teeth; also called "possum" in some regions
77. co_____r fatal disease *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
78. ext_____te pests *v.* to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds
79. do_____n-watching tour *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

ANSWERS: 69. pigeon, 70. indefinitely, 71. cuddle, 72. devour, 73. lovable, 74. helpless, 75. devour, 76. opossum, 77. conquer, 78. exterminate, 79. dolphin

80. ann_____te all doubts *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
81. the speaker's dr__e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
82. sp__m of laughter *n.* a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity
83. a sp_____g amount of sugar *adj.* characterized by using or giving very little of something; frugal or economical in the use of resources or materials
84. ha_____on activity *adj.* actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something
85. mic_____ent approach *n.* a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments
86. 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
87. gr_____y size *n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair
88. h__d toe *adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal

ANSWERS: 80. annihilate, 81. drone, 82. spasm, 83. sparing, 84. hands-on, 85. micromanagement, 86. blur, 87. grizzly, 88. hind

96. la____g larvae *n.* a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects
97. a full grown po____m *n.* a small nocturnal marsupial found in America or Australia that lives in trees and carries its young in a skin pocket called a pouch
98. en____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
99. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
100. ba____ry plot *n.* the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
101. time sp____g *adj.* characterized by using or giving very little of something; frugal or economical in the use of resources or materials
102. em____h in a corporate environment *n.* a person who can understand and share the feelings and experiences of others, often described as having a high degree of empathy
103. co____r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
104. Virginia op____m *n.* a nocturnal marsupial with grayish-white fur, a long naked pink tail, and a head with a pointed snout and sharp teeth; also called "possum" in some regions

ANSWERS: 96. ladybug, 97. possum, 98. entitle, 99. predator, 100. backstory, 101. sparing, 102. empath, 103. conquer, 104. opossum

105. te____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
106. rec_____er the determination *v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to
107. py__y squirrel *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale
108. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
109. lo_____r dinner *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
110. un_____le his conviction *v.* to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
111. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
112. he_____ss baby *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
113. an om_____s silence *adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding
114. potential me___e *n.* a person or thing that is likely to cause harm or danger; a threat or perceived threat
115. en_____e the company to use the logo *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

ANSWERS: 105. terrify, 106. reconsider, 107. pygmy, 108. drone, 109. lobster, 110. unsettle, 111. industrious, 112. helpless, 113. ominous, 114. menace, 115. entitle

116. und_____ht cat *adj.* weighing less than is normal, healthy, or expected for one's age or body type
117. postpone a meeting ind_____ely *adv.* without any fixed or definite limit; for an unknown or unspecified period of time
118. do_____n show *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
119. ina_____te a new policy *v.* to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
120. ina_____te an enterprise *v.* to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
121. pos_____pt message *n.* (also denoted as "P.S. ") an additional remark or note added at the end of a letter or other document after the main body has been completed; something that is added as an afterthought or supplemental information
122. re_____te task *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
123. ma__y coat *adj.* having mange, a skin disease in animals characterized by itching, hair loss, and formation of scabs; referring to something or someone dirty, unkempt, or in poor condition
124. d__e of sleep *n.* the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise

ANSWERS: 116. underweight, 117. indefinitely, 118. dolphin, 119. inaugurate, 120. inaugurate, 121. postscript, 122. relegate, 123. mangy, 124. daze

125. up_____e Connecticut *adj.* relating to or located in the region that is located in the northern part of a state or country, particularly in the United States
126. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
127. mo_____e attitude *adj.* having a sullen and gloomy disposition; characterized by a persistent and unchanging negative attitude
128. irr_____al numbers *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
129. re_____re anxious patients *v.* to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence
130. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
131. pr__k up her ears *v.* to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication
132. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
133. bu__e sound *n.* a brass wind instrument similar to a trumpet but with a more conical shape and no valves; the sound produced by the bugle or a similar instrument
134. un__k a crate *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

ANSWERS: 125. upstate, 126. terrifying, 127. morose, 128. irrational, 129. reassure, 130. frightening, 131. prick, 132. predator, 133. bugle, 134. unpack

151. ind_____nce to pain *n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
152. 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
153. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
154. mo___e atmosphere *adj.* having a sullen and gloomy disposition; characterized by a persistent and unchanging negative attitude
155. wh__p it up at a party *v.* to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise
156. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
157. ex__t control *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
158. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
159. easy to dom_____te *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
160. ot__r in the river *n.* a semiaquatic mammal with a sleek, streamlined body, short legs, webbed feet, and dense, soft fur, found in and around freshwater and coastal areas
161. American bi__n's meat *n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison

ANSWERS: 151. indifference, 152. blur, 153. storytelling, 154. morose, 155. whoop, 156. terrify, 157. exert, 158. storytelling, 159. domesticate, 160. otter, 161. bison

162. fresh lo____r *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
163. play po____m *n.* a small nocturnal marsupial found in America or Australia that lives in trees and carries its young in a skin pocket called a pouch
164. cr__e for speculation *n.* an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad
165. short st____e *n.* the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community
166. fe____us beast *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
167. gl____r retreat *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
168. di____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
169. high ar____c *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
170. ind____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 162. lobster, 163. possum, 164. craze, 165. stature, 166. ferocious, 167. glacier, 168. disrupt, 169. arctic, 170. industrious

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ workshop allowed attendees to work with tools and materials, developing their skills in a hands-on environment.
adj. actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something
2. Some species of _____ have a strong, unpleasant smell and are also called stink bugs.
n. a small, round, usually red or orange beetle with black spots, which feeds on aphids and other small insects
3. We store all of our drinking water in a large _____ tank on the roof of our house.
n. (a prefix meaning "many" or "much") commonly used in chemistry, biology, and other sciences to indicate a large, complex structure or molecule that is made up of repeating units, such as polyester, polymer
4. The doctor expressed concern that the patient was _____ and needed to gain a few pounds.
adj. weighing less than is normal, healthy, or expected for one's age or body type
5. This nationwide strike may _____ the country's economy.
v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
6. He became _____ after his favorite team lost the game.
adj. having a sullen and gloomy disposition; characterized by a persistent and unchanging negative attitude
7. He was in a _____ from the sudden news and couldn't process it properly.
n. the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise

ANSWERS: 1. hands-on, 2. ladybugs, 3. poly, 4. underweight, 5. unsettle, 6. morose, 7. daze

8. I wrote a _____ at the bottom of the invitation, informing guests to bring their drinks.
n. (also denoted as "P.S. ") an additional remark or note added at the end of a letter or other document after the main body has been completed; something that is added as an afterthought or supplemental information
9. The _____ foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.
adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed
10. The virus had the potential to _____ entire populations if left unchecked.
v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
11. The _____ use of resources is important for conservation efforts.
adj. characterized by using or giving very little of something; frugal or economical in the use of resources or materials
12. He humbly _____ his conduct.
v. to think about a decision or opinion again to
13. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
14. She _____ the mystery novel in one sitting.
v. to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
15. The government plans to _____ the rural area by building more housing units and improving transportation infrastructure.
v. to make an area more urban in character or nature, often through the development and expansion of cities or towns

ANSWERS: 8. postscript, 9. squishy, 10. annihilate, 11. sparing, 12. reconsidered, 13. terrifying, 14. devoured, 15. urbanize

16. The hiker stumbled upon a _____ bear in the woods and quickly retreated.
- n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair
17. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
18. The bird _____ on the branch, watching the world below.
- v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
19. He grew up in a small town in _____ New York.
- adj.* relating to or located in the region that is located in the northern part of a state or country, particularly in the United States
20. By using this _____ we can teach moral lessons.
- n.* a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals
21. He read books to quench his _____ for knowledge.
- n.* a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something
22. The pilot tried to _____ the customers that the planes were safe.
- v.* to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence
23. The _____ perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.
- n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

ANSWERS: 16. grizzly, 17. storytelling, 18. perched, 19. upstate, 20. allegory, 21. thirst, 22. reassure, 23. pigeon

24. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.

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

25. The reckless driver was a _____ to other drivers on the road.

n. a person or thing that is likely to cause harm or danger; a threat or perceived threat

26. The little puppy was _____ and had a playful personality.

adj. deserving or inspiring love and affection

27. An _____ tail is prehensile, which helps it climb and maintain balance.

n. a nocturnal marsupial with grayish-white fur, a long naked pink tail, and a head with a pointed snout and sharp teeth; also called "possum" in some regions

28. The underperforming team was _____ to a lower division.

v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote

29. The _____ team pulled off a stunning upset against the heavily favored opponent.

n. a person or group in a competition or situation that is expected to lose or be at a disadvantage; a person or group that is seen as less powerful or less favored than others in a social, political, or economic context

30. It is easy to _____ a new job or opportunity, but it is important to remain objective and realistic about the challenges that come with it

v. to make something seem more attractive or appealing than it is, especially by exaggerating or idealizing its qualities; to view or present something in a romantic or sentimental way

ANSWERS: 24. frightening, 25. menace, 26. lovable, 27. opossum's, 28. relegated, 29. underdog, 30. romanticize

31. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
32. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
33. The lion's _____ roar could be heard from miles away.
adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel
34. The construction project has been delayed _____ due to the pandemic.
adv. without any fixed or definite limit; for an unknown or unspecified period of time
35. I need to _____ my suitcase and put my clothes away.
v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
36. The secretary's _____ was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.
n. a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
37. Medical students need to acquire not only knowledge but also a professional _____ of a doctor.
n. the set of beliefs and attitudes that belong to a particular community, nation, ideology, or a person
38. We experienced a _____ for electric vehicles as interest in green tech grew.
n. an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad

ANSWERS: 31. entitled, 32. drown, 33. ferocious, 34. indefinitely, 35. unpack, 36. shorthand, 37. ethos, 38. craze

39. Marsupials include koalas, _____ and kangaroos.
- n.* a small nocturnal marsupial found in America or Australia that lives in trees and carries its young in a skin pocket called a pouch
40. I _____ with your struggles and am here to support you through them.
- v.* to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences
41. The farmer noticed a _____ leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.
- adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
42. The restaurant served a delicious _____ steamed to perfection.
- n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
43. I feel so _____ without you.
- adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
44. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
- v.* to frighten someone very much
45. The _____ stray dog wandered the streets in search of food.
- adj.* having mange, a skin disease in animals characterized by itching, hair loss, and formation of scabs; referring to something or someone dirty, unkempt, or in poor condition
46. A leader needs to have a _____ that commands respect from their followers.
- n.* the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community

ANSWERS: 39. possums, 40. sympathize, 41. hind, 42. lobster, 43. helpless, 44. terrify, 45. mangy, 46. stature

47. I tried to assume an air of _____.
- n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
48. We took a boat tour to witness the magnificent _____ colony along the rugged coastline.
- n.* a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait
49. The ship had to navigate around a large ice _____ in the Arctic Ocean.
- n.* a sheet of floating ice detached from a larger glacier or ice sheet
50. 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
51. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.
- adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
52. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
- n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
53. The majestic _____ soared through the sky, captivating everyone's attention.
- n.* a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America
54. He _____ himself to lift the heavyweight.
- v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play

ANSWERS: 47. indifference, 48. penguin, 49. floe, 50. fad, 51. astonishing, 52. drone, 53. condor, 54. exerted

55. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.

- v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

56. I love to watch my pet _____ play with its toys.

- n. a small, carnivorous mammal with a long slender body and a pointed snout, often used for hunting rats or other small animals; (verb) to search persistently and relentlessly for something, often in a secretive or concealed manner, as if hunting with a ferret

57. The playful _____ swam around the river, diving in and out of the water.

- n. a semiaquatic mammal with a sleek, streamlined body, short legs, webbed feet, and dense, soft fur, found in and around freshwater and coastal areas

58. We _____ cows to gain milk and meat.

- v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

59. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.

- v. to bring under control by force or authority

60. The president will _____ the new embassy building next week.

- v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

61. The winning team began to _____ and holler with excitement.

- v. to shout or cry out loudly, often in celebration or excitement; to make an exuberant noise

62. He accidentally _____ his finger with the needle.

- v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

ANSWERS: 55. disrupt, 56. ferret, 57. otter, 58. domesticate, 59. conquer, 60. inaugurate, 61. whoop, 62. pricked

63. They continued to endure _____ treatment by the dictatorship.
adj. not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
64. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
65. 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
66. The government _____ the invasive species to protect native plants and animals.
v. to destroy completely, often referring to the eradication of pests or weeds
67. The _____ of the main character added depth to the story.
n. the history and events that occur before the main events of a story or the history and details of a person or thing that are not widely known
68. The _____ of the ice age have shaped Fjord.
n. a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
69. I love to _____ with my dog on the couch after a long day.
v. to hold close and lovingly in one's arms, often for comfort or affection; to snuggle or nestle against someone or something
70. The _____ patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.
n. a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

ANSWERS: 63. irrational, 64. industrious, 65. retrospect, 66. exterminated, 67. backstory, 68. glaciers, 69. cuddle, 70. schizophrenia

71. Large herds of _____ used to live on the plains of this area.
- n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
72. 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
73. The large group of _____ swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.
- n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
74. His manager's _____ style drove him crazy, making him feel like he couldn't make any decisions on his own.
- n.* a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments
75. The judge declared the defendant _____.
- adj.* without fault or guilt
76. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
- n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
77. 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

ANSWERS: 71. bison, 72. blur, 73. dolphins, 74. micromanagement, 75. blameless, 76. predator's, 77. bum

78. Being an _____ in a relationship requires the partner to understand the empath's unique emotional needs.
- n.* a person who can understand and share the feelings and experiences of others, often described as having a high degree of empathy
79. The patient's face twitched in _____ as the dentist started drilling her tooth.
- n.* a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity
80. My son plays with his toy trumpet and loves to _____ loudly.
- v.* to emit a short, high-pitched sound, often from a horn or whistle; to play a brief, typically loud, note on a musical instrument
81. The _____ clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.
- adj.* giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding
82. The chef _____ the chicken to perfection in the oven.
- v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
83. Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the _____ climate.
- adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
84. The _____ call woke up the soldiers at dawn.
- n.* a brass wind instrument similar to a trumpet but with a more conical shape and no valves; the sound produced by the bugle or a similar instrument
85. The _____ marmoset is the smallest monkey species in the world.
- adj.* relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale

ANSWERS: 78. empath, 79. spasms, 80. toot, 81. ominous, 82. roasted, 83. arctic, 84. bugle, 85. pygmy

ANSWERS: