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David Kwong: Two nerdy obsessions meet -- and it's magic | TED Talk

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

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

puzzle

n. a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

synonym: plight, maze, (verb) perplex

(1) crossword **puzzle**, (2) mathematical **puzzle**

This jigsaw **puzzle** is challenging because there are no pictures.

magic

n. beliefs and actions employed to influence supernatural beings and forces; any art or performance that invokes supernatural powers

synonym: fascination, illusion, wizardry

(1) a **magic** spell, (2) she is **magic**

He performed **magic** tricks with sophisticated moves.

distinct

adj. noticeable from something else of a similar type

synonym: different, special, characteristic

(1) **distinct** difference, (2) **distinct** from each other

It is essential to keep these two issues **distinct**.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand

or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym : illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

crossword

n. a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues

(1) do a **crossword** puzzle, (2) good at **crossword** puzzles

He sat frowning over a **crossword** puzzle.

construct

v. to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole

synonym : build, assemble, create

(1) **construct** a 3D image, (2) **construct** a dam

He **constructs** hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym : geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

combine

v. to join or merge to form a single thing or group

synonym : coalesce, cohere, blend

(1) **combine** chemically with another substance,

(2) **combine** augmented reality

Hydrogen and oxygen **combine** to form water.

urge

v. to spur on or encourage someone, especially by cheers and shouts; (noun) a strong desire or impulse, especially one that is difficult to control or resist

synonym : push for, advise, (noun) impulse

(1) **urge** a total ban, (2) a sexual **urge**

The lobbyist **urged** Congress not to approve the measure.

chaos

n. a state of complete confusion or disorder, often characterized by a lack of predictability or control

synonym: disorder, turmoil, confusion

(1) **chaos** theory, (2) midst of **chaos**

The conference room was in **chaos** as everyone tried to speak at once.

consist

v. to be composed or made up of

synonym: lie in, comprise, exist

(1) **consist** mainly of cells, (2) **consist** only in knowing facts

This examination **consists** of five problems to solve.

epic

n. a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive

synonym: legendary, mythical, classical

(1) heroic **epic**, (2) **epic** battle

The military **epic** between the two armies was one for the history books.

scramble

v. to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game

synonym: scramble, jumble, mix

(1) **scramble** through her purse, (2) **scramble** words

The kids eagerly **scrabbled** to find the hidden Easter eggs in the garden.

cafeteria

n. a restaurant where customers serve themselves from a counter and pay for what they have taken, often found in factories, colleges, hospitals, etc.

synonym: canteen, mess hall, restaurant

(1) **cafeteria** lunch, (2) office **cafeteria**

The university's **cafeteria** was busy with students and staff grabbing a quick lunch.

definitely

adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly

synonym : absolutely, certainly, indeed

(1) **definitely** become a problem, (2) say **definitely**

The paper is **definitely** worth reading thoroughly.

conversation

n. an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

synonym : chat, discussion, dialogue

(1) **conversation** in English, (2) a friendly **conversation**

Your **conversation** reflects your thoughts.

intersection

n. a point where two or more roads, lines, etc., cross each other

synonym : crossroad, junction, hub

(1) busy **intersection**, (2) the **intersection** of coordinate axes

Take a right turn at the next **intersection**.

illusion

n. a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation

synonym : delusion, fallacy, magic trick

(1) optical **illusion**, (2) the **illusion** of being in the forest

He could no longer tell the difference between **illusion** and reality.

solver

n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem

synonym : thinker

(1) puzzle- **solver**, (2) linear **solver**

The flow **solver** is validated against the experiment.

grid

n. a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical

power is distributed throughout a region

synonym : gridiron, battery grid, power system

(1) a **grid** design, (2) a wire **grid**

Grid pattern roads often appear in urban areas.

mix-up

n. a confusion or mistake that occurs when things become intermingled or confused; a situation where people are mistaken or confused about something

synonym : confuse, jumble, scramble

(1) a **mix-up** in the booking, (2) baby **mix-up**

The **mix-up** with the schedule caused a lot of confusion among the team.

shuffle

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

synonym : jumble, muddle, rearrange

(1) **shuffle** deck, (2) **shuffle** from side to side

She **shuffled** the cards before dealing them to the players.

primal

adj. of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

synonym : original, fundamental, basic

(1) **primal** eras, (2) **primal** fear

The **primal** instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

triangle

n. a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

synonym : trilateral, delta, triad

(1) **triangle** shape, (2) love **triangle**

The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right **triangle**.

infant

n. a baby or very young child

synonym : baby, newborn, tot

(1) **infant** daughter, (2) **infant** food

Mozart was an **infant** prodigy.

gaze

v. to stare at something or someone for an extended time, usually out of surprise or adoration, or because you are thinking about something else

synonym : stare, gawk, look

(1) **gaze** steadily at his face, (2) **gaze** absently out a window
The youngster was **gazed** at by the beast.

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.

remarkable

adj. worthy of attention because unusual or special

synonym : outstanding, exceptional, extraordinary

(1) **remarkable** achievement, (2) the **remarkable** breadth of knowledge

The election was a **remarkable** success for the Whigs.

infancy

n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child

synonym : childhood, babyhood, juvenescence

(1) **infancy** stage, (2) in early **infancy**

The technology is still in its **infancy** and has much room for improvement.

invention

n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

synonym : creation, design, innovation

(1) the **invention** of new techniques, (2) common **invention**
Necessity is the mother of **invention**.

celebrate

v. to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity

synonym : praise, glorify, honor

(1) **celebrate** his election, (2) **celebrate** Christmas
He **celebrated** the 10th anniversary of his tenure.

anniversary

n. the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year

synonym: commemoration, celebration, observance

(1) **anniversary** celebration, (2) a bicentennial **anniversary**
They celebrated their 10th **anniversary** with a romantic dinner.

tangram

n. a Chinese puzzle made up of a square divided into seven pieces (five triangles, a square, and a parallelogram) that are used to create various shapes without overlapping

synonym: puzzle, dissection, silhouette game

(1) **tangram** shape, (2) geometric **tangram**
The teacher asked the students to create an animal using the **tangram** pieces.

jumble

v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things

synonym: mix, scramble, mess up

(1) **jumble** in some herbs and spices, (2) **jumble** together different colors
The children **jumbled** up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.

jigsaw

n. a tool with a fine-toothed blade used for cutting intricate curves and patterns in thin material such as wood or metal, typically with the blade being reciprocating; a type of puzzle that consists of irregularly shaped pieces that must be fitted together to form a complete picture

synonym: fretsaw, puzzle

(1) **jigsaw** puzzle, (2) **jigsaw** woodworking

The **jigsaw** blade needs to be changed before we can continue the project.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym: decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences
The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

eternal

adj. being without beginning or end; lasting forever

synonym: endless, everlasting, undying

(1) the hope of **eternal** life, (2) **eternal** quarreling

In every civilization, rulers have tried everything possible to obtain **eternal** life.

quest

n. a long or challenging search for something

synonym: exploration, inquisition, pursuit

(1) the **quest** for truth, (2) on a **quest** for happiness

That adventurer traveled in **quest** of buried treasure.

Don

n. a Spanish gentleman; a university lecturer, especially a senior member of a college at Oxford or Cambridge

(1) the **don** of the university, (2) **Don** Giovanni

He could never go against what **Don** Carlos said.

quixotic

adj. exceedingly idealistic or unrealistic; marked by extravagantly chivalrous pursuits and romantic ideals; impractical or unworkable

synonym: idealistic, impractical, unrealistic

(1) **quixotic** adventure, (2) **quixotic** dream

The politician's **quixotic** campaign promise to end all poverty was met with skepticism.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or

confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **nodded** quietly in response to the question.

demonstrate

v. to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience

synonym: show, illustrate, display

(1) **demonstrate** a difference, (2) **demonstrate** mastery

How can you **demonstrate** that the earth is a sphere?

applause

n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

synonym: clapping, cheering, acclaim

(1) round of **applause**, (2) earn **applause**

The **applause** burst from the audience.

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.

envelop

v. to surround and cover completely; to encase

synonym: wrap, cover, surround

(1) **envelop** the whole world, (2) **envelop** her in a bear hug

The fog **enveloped** the city, making it difficult to see.

owl

n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

synonym: raptor, bird of prey, nocturnal bird

(1) a night **owl**, (2) an **owl** hooted

The snowy **owl** is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

donkey

n. a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person

synonym:

horse, burro, mule

(1) male **donkey**, (2) **donkey** ride

The little boy rode the **donkey** at the county fair.

rooster

n. a male chicken, especially one that is adult; a bird that has a distinctive red comb, wattle, and crowing call

synonym: cock, chicken, hen

(1) bantam **rooster**, (2) **rooster** fight

The **rooster's** crow woke up the farmer every morning at sunrise.

ox

n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body

synonym: cow, bullock, steer

(1) **ox** cart, (2) water **ox**

The sacrifice of an **ox** was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.

fancy

v. to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy

synonym: imagine, visualize, (noun) fantasy

(1) **fancy** a cup of coffee, (2) a flight of **fancy**

I don't **fancy** acting in such an important role.

cobalt

n. a lustrous, hard, silver-white element with the symbol Co that is often used in alloys, batteries, and pigments and is essential for certain biological processes in humans and other organisms

synonym: Co

(1) **cobalt** steel, (2) **cobalt** blue

The blades of gas turbine engines are often coated with a **cobalt** layer to improve their durability.

emerald

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

synonym: green, verdant, jade

(1) an **emerald** gem, (2) **emerald** ring

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

amber

n. a hard, translucent, yellow-orange or brownish-yellow fossil resin that is used in jewelry and ornamentation and often contains insects or other small organisms that were trapped inside when the resin was sticky; also used to describe the color that resembles this type of resin

synonym: resin, fossilized tree sap, golden stone

(1) **amber** resin, (2) **amber** ale

The bracelet was made of beautiful **amber** stones.

scribble

v. to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry

synonym: scabble, scrawl, jot

(1) **scribble** on paper, (2) **scribble** notes

The words were **scribbled** in pencil.

broad

adj. very wide; general

synonym: wide, expansive, comprehensive

(1) attract **broad** attention, (2) a **broad** mind

He accumulated wealth across a **broad** spectrum of assets.

stroke

n. a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.

synonym: blow

(1) suffer **stroke**, (2) a **stroke** of the putter

This year's extreme heat has resulted in many heat **stroke** cases.

recap

v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.

synonym: outline, summarize, abstract

(1) **recap** key points, (2) **recap** briefly

Let me quickly **recap** these results.

purple

adj. of a color intermediate between red and blue

synonym : violet

(1) deep **purple**, (2) **purple** sweet potatoes

The plant has a stunning **purple** blossom.

blank

adj. without any writing or printing; empty or devoid of ideas, information, or meaning; unable to remember or recall information

synonym : empty, void, barren

(1) **blank** expression, (2) **blank** paper

The computer screen displayed nothing but a **blank** white screen

amazing

adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

synonym : exceptional, extraordinary, wonderful

(1) **amazing** advances, (2) the most **amazing** feeling

The golfer recorded an **amazing** distance.

coincidence

n. an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way

synonym : co-occurrence, concurrency, accident

(1) the **coincidence** of an opinion, (2) by a strange **coincidence**

It was a pure **coincidence** that we met her in the library.

brain

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

synonym : intellect, mind, encephalon

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

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

recall

v. to remember something

synonym : remember, retrieve, recollect

(1) **recall** the incident, (2) **recall** his name

She vividly **recalls** getting laid off several years ago.

ultimate

adj. furthest or highest in degree or order

synonym: highest, maximum, foremost

(1) the **ultimate** goal in life, (2) the **ultimate** luxury
Management must take **ultimate** responsibility for the accident.

plot

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

synonym: scheme, plan, design

(1) **plot** twist, (2) **plot** a revolution

The **plot** of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

experiment

n. the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

synonym: experimentation, investigation

(1) **experiment** design, (2) series of **experiments**

His **experiments** showed highly positive results.

confident

adj. feeling sure about your abilities or qualities or having trust in people, plans, or the future

synonym: certain, sure, convinced

(1) feel **confident**, (2) a **confident** remark

I'm not **confident** in our victory.

prediction

n. the act of predicting the future by reasoning; a statement made about the future

synonym: forecast, anticipation, foretelling

(1) make my **predictions**, (2) gloomy **predictions**

These results muddied the **prediction**.

indelible

adj. cannot be removed, erased, or forgot

synonym: enduring, lasting, unforgettable

(1) an **indelible** ink, (2) an **indelible** disgrace

She left an **indelible** mark on our country's literature.

row *n.* an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
synonym: line, sequence, layer
(1) criminal on death **row**, (2) a **row** of cherry trees
He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front **row**.

underneath *adv.* under or below something else
synonym: below, under, beneath
(1) **underneath** the surface of the water, (2) **underneath** the laughter
The penny fell **underneath** the piano.

sect *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
synonym: group, faction, cult
(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**
The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

clue *n.* an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery
synonym: hint, indication, inkling
(1) a **clue** about the crime, (2) a **clue** to the diagnosis
The police couldn't find a **clue** to her whereabouts.

corruptible *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
synonym: bribable, dishonest, venal
(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges
Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

grateful *adj.* feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful
synonym: thankful, appreciative, indebted

(1) a **grateful** breeze, (2) put a **grateful** expression
She was **grateful** for the help he provided.

combination

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

synonym: blend, hybrid, compounding

(1) genic **combinations**, (2) **combination** number

The **combination** to the safe was a secret.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ox cart *n.* a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body
2. bantam ro____r *n.* a male chicken, especially one that is adult; a bird that has a distinctive red comb, wattle, and crowing call
3. pr___l eras *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
4. n__d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
5. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
6. exp_____nt design *n.* the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge
7. ji___w puzzle *n.* a tool with a fine-toothed blade used for cutting intricate curves and patterns in thin material such as wood or metal, typically with the blade being reciprocating; a type of puzzle that consists of irregularly shaped pieces that must be fitted together to form a complete picture
8. street ma_____an *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

ANSWERS: 1. ox, 2. rooster, 3. primal, 4. nerd, 5. corruptible, 6. experiment, 7. jigsaw, 8. magician

9. a c__e to the diagnosis *n.* an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery
10. a bicentennial ann_____ry *n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year
11. a ma__c spell *n.* beliefs and actions employed to influence supernatural beings and forces; any art or performance that invokes supernatural powers
12. et_____l quarreling *adj.* being without beginning or end; lasting forever
13. di_____ct from each other *adj.* noticeable from something else of a similar type
14. 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
15. do a cr_____rd puzzle *n.* a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues
16. in___t food *n.* a baby or very young child
17. D_n Giovanni *n.* a Spanish gentleman; a university lecturer, especially a senior member of a college at Oxford or Cambridge
18. co_____e chemically with another substance *v.* to join or merge to form a single thing or group

ANSWERS: 9. clue, 10. anniversary, 11. magic, 12. eternal, 13. distinct, 14. disrupt, 15. crossword, 16. infant, 17. Don, 18. combine

28. tr____le shape *n.* a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts
29. deep pu____e *adj.* of a color intermediate between red and blue
30. basic br__n function *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
31. ex____e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
32. linear so____r *n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
33. genic com_____ons *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
34. u__e a total ban *v.* to spur on or encourage someone, especially by cheers and shouts; (noun) a strong desire or impulse, especially one that is difficult to control or resist
35. a gr____ul breeze *adj.* feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful
36. ann_____ry celebration *n.* the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year
37. cor_____le officials *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
38. permanent br__n damage *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

ANSWERS: 28. triangle, 29. purple, 30. brain, 31. excite, 32. solver, 33. combination, 34. urge, 35. grateful, 36. anniversary, 37. corruptible, 38. brain

39. am__r ale *n.* a hard, translucent, yellow-orange or brownish-yellow fossil resin that is used in jewelry and ornamentation and often contains insects or other small organisms that were trapped inside when the resin was sticky; also used to describe the color that resembles this type of resin
40. e__c battle *n.* a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive
41. an in_____le disgrace *adj.* cannot be removed, erased, or forgot
42. make my pre_____ons *n.* the act of predicting the future by reasoning; a statement made about the future
43. baby mi___p *n.* a confusion or mistake that occurs when things become intermingled or confused; a situation where people are mistaken or confused about something
44. a co_____nt remark *adj.* feeling sure about your abilities or qualities or having trust in people, plans, or the future
45. rem_____le achievement *adj.* worthy of attention because unusual or special
46. good at cr_____rd puzzles *n.* a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues

ANSWERS: 39. amber, 40. epic, 41. indelible, 42. prediction, 43. mix-up, 44. confident, 45. remarkable, 46. crossword

47. co___t blue *n.* a lustrous, hard, silver-white element with the symbol Co that is often used in alloys, batteries, and pigments and is essential for certain biological processes in humans and other organisms
48. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
49. water ox *n.* a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavysset body
50. in___t daughter *n.* a baby or very young child
51. co_____ct a 3D image *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
52. the hope of et_____l life *adj.* being without beginning or end; lasting forever
53. pr___l fear *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
54. re___l the incident *v.* to remember something
55. busy int_____ion *n.* a point where two or more roads, lines, etc., cross each other
56. round of ap_____se *n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
57. office ca_____ia *n.* a restaurant where customers serve themselves from a counter and pay for what they have taken, often found in factories, colleges, hospitals, etc.

ANSWERS: 47. cobalt, 48. decode, 49. ox, 50. infant, 51. construct, 52. eternal, 53. primal, 54. recall, 55. intersection, 56. applause, 57. cafeteria

58. in_____y stage *n.* the state or period of being a baby or very young child
59. sc_____le through her purse *v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game
60. earn ap_____se *n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
61. gloomy pre_____ons *n.* the act of predicting the future by reasoning; a statement made about the future
62. on a qu__t for happiness *n.* a long or challenging search for something
63. a g__d design *n.* a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region
64. the rem_____le breadth of knowledge *adj.* worthy of attention because unusual or special
65. optical il_____on *n.* a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation
66. bl__k expression *adj.* without any writing or printing; empty or devoid of ideas, information, or meaning; unable to remember or recall information
67. midst of ch__s *n.* a state of complete confusion or disorder, often characterized by a lack of predictability or control

ANSWERS: 58. infancy, 59. scrabble, 60. applause, 61. prediction, 62. quest, 63. grid, 64. remarkable, 65. illusion, 66. blank, 67. chaos

68. puzzle-so___r *n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
69. the qu__t for truth *n.* a long or challenging search for something
70. the most am_____g feeling *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
71. und_____th the laughter *adv.* under or below something else
72. in early in_____y *n.* the state or period of being a baby or very young child
73. the d_n of the university *n.* a Spanish gentleman; a university lecturer, especially a senior member of a college at Oxford or Cambridge
74. ch__s theory *n.* a state of complete confusion or disorder, often characterized by a lack of predictability or control
75. pu___e sweet potatoes *adj.* of a color intermediate between red and blue
76. the il_____on of being in the forest *n.* a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation
77. an em_____d gem *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
78. re__p key points *v.* to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.
79. love tr_____le *n.* a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts
80. say def_____ly *adv.* without any question and beyond doubt; clearly

ANSWERS: 68. solver, 69. quest, 70. amazing, 71. underneath, 72. infancy, 73. Don, 74. chaos, 75. purple, 76. illusion, 77. emerald, 78. recap, 79. triangle, 80. definitely

81. mathematical pu___e *n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand
82. co_____ct a dam *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
83. am__r resin *n.* a hard, translucent, yellow-orange or brownish-yellow fossil resin that is used in jewelry and ornamentation and often contains insects or other small organisms that were trapped inside when the resin was sticky; also used to describe the color that resembles this type of resin
84. dem_____te mastery *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
85. en_____p her in a bear hug *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
86. male do___y *n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person
87. sc_____le words *v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game

ANSWERS: 81. puzzle, 82. construct, 83. amber, 84. demonstrate, 85. envelop, 86. donkey, 87. scrabble

88. ro____r fight *n.* a male chicken, especially one that is adult; a bird that has a distinctive red comb, wattle, and crowing call
89. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
90. a mi___p in the booking *n.* a confusion or mistake that occurs when things become intermingled or confused; a situation where people are mistaken or confused about something
91. a wire g__d *n.* a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region
92. qu____ic adventure *adj.* exceedingly idealistic or unrealistic; marked by extravagantly chivalrous pursuits and romantic ideals; impractical or unworkable
93. the coi_____ce of an opinion *n.* an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way
94. the int_____ion of coordinate axes *n.* a point where two or more roads, lines, etc., cross each other
95. crossword pu___e *n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand
96. geometric ta____m *n.* a Chinese puzzle made up of a square divided into seven pieces (five triangles, a square, and a parallelogram) that are used to create various shapes without overlapping

ANSWERS: 88. rooster, 89. excite, 90. mix-up, 91. grid, 92. quixotic, 93. coincidence, 94. intersection, 95. puzzle, 96. tangram

97. com_____on number *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
98. a friendly con_____ion *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
99. a r_w of cherry trees *n.* an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
100. am_____g advances *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
101. p__t a revolution *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
102. a c__e about the crime *n.* an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery
103. 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
104. en_____p the whole world *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
105. g__e steadily at his face *v.* to stare at something or someone for an extended time, usually out of surprise or adoration, or because you are thinking about something else

ANSWERS: 97. combination, 98. conversation, 99. row, 100. amazing, 101. plot, 102. clue, 103. disrupt, 104. envelop, 105. gaze

106. dem_____te a difference *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
107. heroic e__c *n.* a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive
108. sh_____e from side to side *v.* to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps
109. co___t steel *n.* a lustrous, hard, silver-white element with the symbol Co that is often used in alloys, batteries, and pigments and is essential for certain biological processes in humans and other organisms
110. attract br__d attention *adj.* very wide; general
111. ca_____ia lunch *n.* a restaurant where customers serve themselves from a counter and pay for what they have taken, often found in factories, colleges, hospitals, etc.
112. an o_l hooted *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
113. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
114. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

ANSWERS: 106. demonstrate, 107. epic, 108. shuffle, 109. cobalt, 110. broad, 111. cafeteria, 112. owl, 113. nerd, 114. nod

115. sc_____le on paper *v.* to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry
116. g__e absently out a window *v.* to stare at something or someone for an extended time, usually out of surprise or adoration, or because you are thinking about something else
117. re___l his name *v.* to remember something
118. a br__d mind *adj.* very wide; general
119. a flight of fa__y *v.* to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy
120. feel co_____nt *adj.* feeling sure about your abilities or qualities or having trust in people, plans, or the future
121. def_____ly become a problem *adv.* without any question and beyond doubt; clearly
122. the ul_____te luxury *adj.* furthest or highest in degree or order
123. common in_____on *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
124. con_____ion in English *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
125. di_____ct difference *adj.* noticeable from something else of a similar type
126. she is ma__c *n.* beliefs and actions employed to influence supernatural beings and forces; any art or performance that invokes supernatural powers

ANSWERS: 115. scribble, 116. gaze, 117. recall, 118. broad, 119. fancy, 120. confident, 121. definitely, 122. ultimate, 123. invention, 124. conversation, 125. distinct, 126. magic

127. p__t twist *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
128. ju___e in some herbs and spices *v.* to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
129. by a strange coi_____ce *n.* an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way
130. suffer st___e *n.* a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
131. ji___w woodworking *n.* a tool with a fine-toothed blade used for cutting intricate curves and patterns in thin material such as wood or metal, typically with the blade being reciprocating; a type of puzzle that consists of irregularly shaped pieces that must be fitted together to form a complete picture
132. criminal on death r_w *n.* an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
133. ju___e together different colors *v.* to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things

ANSWERS: 127. plot, 128. jumble, 129. coincidence, 130. stroke, 131. jigsaw, 132. row, 133. jumble

134. the in_____on of new techniques *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
135. em_____d ring *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
136. do____y ride *n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person
137. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
138. ce_____te his election *v.* to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
139. qu_____ic dream *adj.* exceedingly idealistic or unrealistic; marked by extravagantly chivalrous pursuits and romantic ideals; impractical or unworkable
140. co_____t only in knowing facts *v.* to be composed or made up of
141. the ul_____te goal in life *adj.* furthest or highest in degree or order
142. und_____th the surface of the water *adv.* under or below something else
143. put a gr_____ul expression *adj.* feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful
144. ability to de____e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

ANSWERS: 134. invention, 135. emerald, 136. donkey, 137. nod, 138. celebrate, 139. quixotic, 140. consist, 141. ultimate, 142. underneath, 143. grateful, 144. decode

145. bl__k paper *adj.* without any writing or printing; empty or devoid of ideas, information, or meaning; unable to remember or recall information
146. an in_____le ink *adj.* cannot be removed, erased, or forgot
147. a night o_l *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
148. a sexual u__e *v.* to spur on or encourage someone, especially by cheers and shouts; (noun) a strong desire or impulse, especially one that is difficult to control or resist
149. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
150. a st___e of the putter *n.* a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
151. sh_____e deck *v.* to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps
152. series of exp_____nts *n.* the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

ANSWERS: 145. blank, 146. indelible, 147. owl, 148. urge, 149. sect, 150. stroke, 151. shuffle, 152. experiment

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The technology is still in its _____ and has much room for improvement.
n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child

2. The children _____ up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.
v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things

3. The lobbyist _____ Congress not to approve the measure.
v. to spur on or encourage someone, especially by cheers and shouts; (noun) a strong desire or impulse, especially one that is difficult to control or resist

4. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

5. He accumulated wealth across a _____ spectrum of assets.
adj. very wide; general

6. He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front _____.
n. an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars

7. These results muddied the _____.
n. the act of predicting the future by reasoning; a statement made about the future

8. She _____ the cards before dealing them to the players.
v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

ANSWERS: 1. infancy, 2. jumbled, 3. urged, 4. excited, 5. broad, 6. row, 7. prediction, 8. shuffled

9. The teacher asked the students to create an animal using the _____ pieces.
- n.* a Chinese puzzle made up of a square divided into seven pieces (five triangles, a square, and a parallelogram) that are used to create various shapes without overlapping
10. The _____ crow woke up the farmer every morning at sunrise.
- n.* a male chicken, especially one that is adult; a bird that has a distinctive red comb, wattle, and crowing call
11. The snowy ____ is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.
- n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
12. Your _____ reflects your thoughts.
- n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
13. How can you _____ that the earth is a sphere?
- v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
14. This year's extreme heat has resulted in many heat _____ cases.
- n.* a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
15. Hydrogen and oxygen _____ to form water.
- v.* to join or merge to form a single thing or group
16. This examination _____ of five problems to solve.
- v.* to be composed or made up of

ANSWERS: 9. tangram, 10. rooster's, 11. owl, 12. conversation, 13. demonstrate, 14. stroke, 15. combine, 16. consists

17. I'm not _____ in our victory.

adj. feeling sure about your abilities or qualities or having trust in people, plans, or the future

18. The flow _____ is validated against the experiment.

n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem

19. It is essential to keep these two issues _____.

adj. noticeable from something else of a similar type

20. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

21. The election was a _____ success for the Whigs.

adj. worthy of attention because unusual or special

22. The police couldn't find a _____ to her whereabouts.

n. an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery

23. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

24. The _____ with the schedule caused a lot of confusion among the team.

n. a confusion or mistake that occurs when things become intermingled or confused; a situation where people are mistaken or confused about something

ANSWERS: 17. confident, 18. solver, 19. distinct, 20. decode, 21. remarkable, 22. clue, 23. corruptible, 24. mix-up

25. The _____ to the safe was a secret.

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

26. The blades of gas turbine engines are often coated with a _____ layer to improve their durability.

n. a lustrous, hard, silver-white element with the symbol Co that is often used in alloys, batteries, and pigments and is essential for certain biological processes in humans and other organisms

27. The sacrifice of an ___ was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.

n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavysset body

28. Mozart was an _____ prodigy.

n. a baby or very young child

29. The _____ of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

30. The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right _____.

n. a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

31. The golfer recorded an _____ distance.

adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

ANSWERS: 25. combination, 26. cobalt, 27. ox, 28. infant, 29. plot, 30. triangle, 31. amazing

32. The kids eagerly _____ to find the hidden Easter eggs in the garden.
- v. to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game
33. The penny fell _____ the piano.
- adv. under or below something else
34. The youngster was _____ at by the beast.
- v. to stare at something or someone for an extended time, usually out of surprise or adoration, or because you are thinking about something else
35. The plant has a stunning _____ blossom.
- adj. of a color intermediate between red and blue
36. That adventurer traveled in _____ of buried treasure.
- n. a long or challenging search for something
37. The university's _____ was busy with students and staff grabbing a quick lunch.
- n. a restaurant where customers serve themselves from a counter and pay for what they have taken, often found in factories, colleges, hospitals, etc.
38. _____ pattern roads often appear in urban areas.
- n. a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region
39. I don't _____ acting in such an important role.
- v. to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy

ANSWERS: 32. scrabbled, 33. underneath, 34. gazed, 35. purple, 36. quest, 37. cafeteria, 38. Grid, 39. fancy

40. He _____ the 10th anniversary of his tenure.
v. to acknowledge a memorable or good day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
41. 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
42. He sat frowning over a _____ puzzle.
n. a word puzzle consisting of a grid of black and white squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues
43. In every civilization, rulers have tried everything possible to obtain _____ life.
adj. being without beginning or end; lasting forever
44. He could no longer tell the difference between _____ and reality.
n. a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation
45. Necessity is the mother of _____.
n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
46. He performed _____ tricks with sophisticated moves.
n. beliefs and actions employed to influence supernatural beings and forces; any art or performance that invokes supernatural powers
47. The _____ blade needs to be changed before we can continue the project.
n. a tool with a fine-toothed blade used for cutting intricate curves and patterns in thin material such as wood or metal, typically with the blade being reciprocating; a type of puzzle that consists of irregularly shaped pieces that must be fitted together to form a complete picture

ANSWERS: 40. celebrated, 41. disrupt, 42. crossword, 43. eternal, 44. illusion, 45. invention, 46. magic, 47. jigsaw

48. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
49. The military _____ between the two armies was one for the history books.
n. a long and eventful or heroic history, story, poem, or film; (adjective) very imposing or impressive
50. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.
n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
51. It was a pure _____ that we met her in the library.
n. an occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time by chance, in a surprising way
52. She vividly _____ getting laid off several years ago.
v. to remember something
53. The politician's _____ campaign promise to end all poverty was met with skepticism.
adj. exceedingly idealistic or unrealistic; marked by extravagantly chivalrous pursuits and romantic ideals; impractical or unworkable
54. The _____ green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.
adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
55. He _____ hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.
v. to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole

ANSWERS: 48. sect, 49. epic, 50. nerd, 51. coincidence, 52. recalls, 53. quixotic, 54. emerald, 55. constructs

56. Take a right turn at the next _____.

n. a point where two or more roads, lines, etc., cross each other

57. He could never go against what ____ Carlos said.

n. a Spanish gentleman; a university lecturer, especially a senior member of a college at Oxford or Cambridge

58. The conference room was in _____ as everyone tried to speak at once.

n. a state of complete confusion or disorder, often characterized by a lack of predictability or control

59. The computer screen displayed nothing but a _____ white screen

adj. without any writing or printing; empty or devoid of ideas, information, or meaning; unable to remember or recall information

60. She left an _____ mark on our country's literature.

adj. cannot be removed, erased, or forgot

61. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

62. This jigsaw _____ is challenging because there are no pictures.

n. a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

63. The words were _____ in pencil.

v. to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry

ANSWERS: 56. intersection, 57. Don, 58. chaos, 59. blank, 60. indelible, 61. magician's, 62. puzzle, 63. scribbled

64. She _____ quietly in response to the question.

- v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

65. The paper is _____ worth reading thoroughly.

- adv.* without any question and beyond doubt; clearly

66. The _____ burst from the audience.

- n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

67. The fog _____ the city, making it difficult to see.

- v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase

68. She was _____ for the help he provided.

- adj.* feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful

69. The bracelet was made of beautiful _____ stones.

- n.* a hard, translucent, yellow-orange or brownish-yellow fossil resin that is used in jewelry and ornamentation and often contains insects or other small organisms that were trapped inside when the resin was sticky; also used to describe the color that resembles this type of resin

70. The little boy rode the _____ at the county fair.

- n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person

71. The _____ instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

- adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

ANSWERS: 64. nodded, 65. definitely, 66. applause, 67. enveloped, 68. grateful, 69. amber, 70. donkey, 71. primal

72. Management must take _____ responsibility for the accident.

adj. furthest or highest in degree or order

73. Let me quickly _____ these results.

v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.

74. X-rays revealed a small tumor in his _____.

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

75. His _____ showed highly positive results.

n. the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

76. They celebrated their 10th _____ with a romantic dinner.

n. the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event; a date on which an event occurred in a previous year

ANSWERS: 72. ultimate, 73. recap, 74. brain, 75. experiments, 76. anniversary