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Amanda Burden: How public spaces make cities work
| TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym : high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed

skyscraper

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

wonk

n. a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy

synonym : nerd, geek, enthusiast

(1) book **wonk**, (2) tech **wonk**

The political **wonk** analyzed every detail of the debate.

behaviorism

n. a psychological approach that emphasizes the study of observable behaviors and the environmental factors that influence them, often without reference to internal mental processes

synonym : conditioning, learning theory, stimulus-response theory

(1) **behaviorism** theory, (2) **behaviorism** approach

Some educators have adopted **behaviorism** techniques to reinforce positive behavior in their classrooms.

midtown

n. the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district

synonym: downtown, city center, central business district

(1) **midtown** traffic, (2) **midtown** coffee shop

The conference is being held in **midtown** Manhattan.

stepfather

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

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

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

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

firsthand

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

synonym: direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

crave

v. to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely

synonym: desire, yearn, long for

(1) **crave** chocolate, (2) **crave** advice from others

She **craves** success and is always pushing herself to do better.

greenery

n. plant life, especially lush and flourishing vegetation

synonym: vegetation, plants, foliage

(1) the **greenery** in a courtyard, (2) **greenery** environment

The city plans to add more **greenery** in public spaces to improve air quality and aesthetic.

trespasser

n. someone who unlawfully enters or intrudes upon someone else's property or land without permission; a person who intentionally or unintentionally violates boundaries, rules, or limits

synonym : intruder, interloper

(1) **trespasser** on private property, (2) deal with a **trespasser**

The property owner caught a **trespasser** in the backyard and called the police.

plaza

n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

synonym : park, square, center

(1) main **plaza**, (2) memorial **plaza**

Three young men were busking in the shopping **plaza**.

spartan

adj. of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity

synonym : ascetic, austere, hard

(1) **spartan** training, (2) a **spartan** diet

The soldier lived a **spartan** lifestyle, with few possessions and luxuries.

desolate

adj. deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness

synonym : barren, stark, uninhabited

(1) a **desolate** scene, (2) **desolate** moon

The deserted island was **desolate** and uninhabited.

downright

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

synonym : absolute, utter, complete

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

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

plinth

n. a heavy base or support on which a statue, column, or other architectural element rests; a platform or pedestal that raises something above its surroundings or provides a solid foundation

synonym : pedestal, base, platform

(1) marble **plinth**, (2) bronze **plinth**

The statue was placed on a sturdy **plinth** in the park's center.

undesirable

adj. not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance

synonym : objectionable, distasteful, unwanted

(1) **undesirable** outcome, (2) **undesirable** behavior

The smell of the garbage was very **undesirable**.

bleak

adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope

synonym : miserable, pathetic, dim

(1) prospects were **bleak**, (2) **bleak** future

The political landscape looks **bleak** without a change of administration.

opportune

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

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

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

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

wasteland

n. a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value

synonym : desert, barren, wild

(1) post-apocalyptic **wasteland**, (2) nuclear **wasteland**

The abandoned industrial site is now a **wasteland** of decaying buildings and rusted machinery.

bankrupt

adj. unable to pay one's debts; having been reduced to a state of financial ruin; lacking in something essential or fundamental

synonym : insolvent, broke, ruined

(1) **bankrupt** business, (2) financially **bankrupt**

Unfortunately, the company went **bankrupt** and had to close its doors permanently.

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.

esplanade

n. a wide, open area, typically by the sea or a river, used for recreational activities or public events

synonym : promenade, walkway, boardwalk

(1) the **esplanade** along the lake, (2) **esplanade** park

The lovely seaside **esplanade** provided a beautiful view of the ocean and a popular spot for evening walks.

mockup

n. a full-scale or scaled-down model or representation of a design or concept, typically used for demonstration, evaluation, or testing purposes before the final product is produced

synonym : prototype, model, sample

(1) **mockup** design, (2) product **mockup**

The designer created a website **mockup** to get client feedback before finalizing the design.

railing

n. a horizontal barrier or fence supported by posts or columns, often used for safety or decorative purposes, particularly on balconies, staircases, or along the edge of a building or platform

synonym : banister, handrail, balustrade

(1) **railing** on the balcony, (2) wooden **railing**

The children held onto the **railing** tightly as they walked up the steep staircase.

swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

synonym: spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

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.

redo

v. to do again, usually to correct or improve upon a previous attempt; to renovate or redesign something to make it better or more suitable

synonym: revise, remake, rework

(1) **redo** a kitchen, (2) **redo** a project

I had to **redo** my entire presentation because the formatting was off.

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym: alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts

The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

swelter

v. to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable

synonym: simmer, roast, bake

(1) **swelter** in their bulletproof vests, (2) **swelter** under the scorching sun

The heat was so intense that it made us **swelter**.

geeky

adj. characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

synonym: nerdy, dorky

(1) **geeky** gadgets, (2) **geeky** interests

He had a **geeky** sense of humor and loved to make puns.

enervate

- v.* to weaken or drain someone's physical, mental, or emotional energy or vitality; to make someone feel exhausted, debilitated, or lacking in strength or enthusiasm

synonym: weaken, debilitate, exhaust

(1) chronically **enervate** people, (2) **enervate** atmosphere
The heat of the day **enervated** the workers and slowed down productivity.

determinant

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

synonym: cause, factor, element

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

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

degrade

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

synonym: demean, disgrace, impair

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

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

upland

- n.* an elevated or high-lying area of land, typically with a higher elevation than the surrounding area, often characterized by hills, mountains, or plateaus

synonym: highland, plateau, hill

(1) **upland** scenery, (2) **upland** game birds

We set up camp on the **upland** to enjoy the breathtaking view of the surrounding valleys.

borough

n. a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city

synonym: town, municipality, city

(1) family **borough**, (2) **borough** boundaries

The **borough** council manages local services such as waste collection and street cleaning.

landlocked

adj. referring to a country or region that is surrounded by land with no direct access to the sea or ocean

synonym: trapped, enclosed

(1) **landlocked** lake, (2) **landlocked** region

The **landlocked** country needed more access to ports and trade routes.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

widen

v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

synonym: broaden, enlarge, extend

(1) **widen** in excitement, (2) **widen** a narrowed heart valve

He **widened** his investigation into a medical clinic.

doe

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

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

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

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

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

viaduct

n. a long bridge or elevated structure, typically consisting of a series of arches or spans, used to carry a road, railroad, or canal over a valley, gorge, or other obstacle

synonym: bridge, overpass, flyover

(1) narrow **viaduct**, (2) railway **viaduct**

The highway passes over the valley on a **viaduct**, allowing for smooth traffic flow.

phenomenally

adv. extremely or exceptionally, especially in a way that is surprising

synonym: exceptionally, amazingly, remarkably

(1) **phenomenally** quick, (2) **phenomenally** gifted

He became **phenomenally** successful in the entertainment industry.

disassemble

v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components

synonym: dismantle, take apart, break down

(1) **disassemble** a machine, (2) **disassemble** furniture

The mechanic had to **disassemble** the engine to locate and fix the problem.

gleam

v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

synonym: glitter, shimmer, shine

(1) **gleam** in eyes, (2) **gleam** like honey

The diamond ring **gleamed** in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.

nonstop

adj. without intermediate stops between source and destination

synonym: continuous, ceaseless, endless

(1) a **nonstop** run, (2) **nonstop** talk

We tend to choose **nonstop** flights when we travel.

vigilant

adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

synonym: watchful, attentive, alert

(1) **vigilant** watch, (2) **vigilant** about hand-washing

The guards had to remain **vigilant** to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.

outset

n. the beginning of something

synonym: beginning, start, initiation

(1) month's **outset**, (2) the **outset** of the crisis

At the **outset** of the project, we encountered several obstacles.

viol

n. a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba

synonym: viola, viola da gamba, string instrument

(1) **viol** instrument, (2) **viol** music

The **viol** player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. de____e environmental quality | v. | to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others |
| 2. en____te atmosphere | v. | to weaken or drain someone's physical, mental, or emotional energy or vitality; to make someone feel exhausted, debilitated, or lacking in strength or enthusiasm |
| 3. beh____sm approach | n. | a psychological approach that emphasizes the study of observable behaviors and the environmental factors that influence them, often without reference to internal mental processes |
| 4. steel-framed sky____er | n. | a very tall building, typically one in a city |
| 5. cr__e chocolate | v. | to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely |
| 6. supportive ste____er | n. | a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father |
| 7. environmental det____nt | n. | a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 8. buck and d_e | n. | a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit |

ANSWERS: 1. degrade, 2. enervate, 3. behaviorism, 4. skyscraper, 5. crave, 6. stepfather, 7. determinant, 8. doe

9. bo____h boundaries *n.* a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city
10. mo____p design *n.* a full-scale or scaled-down model or representation of a design or concept, typically used for demonstration, evaluation, or testing purposes before the final product is produced
11. re____e my thoughts *v.* to change the form or structure of something
12. ra____g on the balcony *n.* a horizontal barrier or fence supported by posts or columns, often used for safety or decorative purposes, particularly on balconies, staircases, or along the edge of a building or platform
13. chronically en____te people *v.* to weaken or drain someone's physical, mental, or emotional energy or vitality; to make someone feel exhausted, debilitated, or lacking in strength or enthusiasm
14. sky____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
15. re____m land from the sea *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
16. gl__m in eyes *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
17. ge__y gadgets *adj.* characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

ANSWERS: 9. borough, 10. mockup, 11. reshape, 12. railing, 13. enervate, 14. skyscraper, 15. reclaim, 16. gleam, 17. geeky

18. lan_____ed region *adj.* referring to a country or region that is surrounded by land with no direct access to the sea or ocean
19. gr_____ry environment *n.* plant life, especially lush and flourishing vegetation
20. r__o a kitchen *v.* to do again, usually to correct or improve upon a previous attempt; to renovate or redesign something to make it better or more suitable
21. dis_____le furniture *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
22. phe_____lly gifted *adv.* extremely or exceptionally, especially in a way that is surprising
23. dis_____le a machine *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
24. no_____p talk *adj.* without intermediate stops between source and destination
25. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
26. vi_____nt about hand-washing *adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
27. up____d scenery *n.* an elevated or high-lying area of land, typically with a higher elevation than the surrounding area, often characterized by hills, mountains, or plateaus
28. gl__m like honey *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

ANSWERS: 18. landlocked, 19. greenery, 20. redo, 21. disassemble, 22. phenomenally, 23. disassemble, 24. nonstop, 25. firsthand, 26. vigilant, 27. upland, 28. gleam

29. secret s__t *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
30. re_____m a competitive position *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
31. el_____e a close relationship *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
32. beh_____sm theory *n.* a psychological approach that emphasizes the study of observable behaviors and the environmental factors that influence them, often without reference to internal mental processes
33. memorial pl__a *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
34. book w__k *n.* a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy
35. tre_____er on private property *n.* someone who unlawfully enters or intrudes upon someone else's property or land without permission; a person who intentionally or unintentionally violates boundaries, rules, or limits
36. ge__y interests *adj.* characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

ANSWERS: 29. sect, 30. reclaim, 31. elevate, 32. behaviorism, 33. plaza, 34. wonk, 35. trespasser, 36. geeky

37. lan_____ed lake *adj.* referring to a country or region that is surrounded by land with no direct access to the sea or ocean
38. a sp_____n diet *adj.* of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity
39. the es_____de along the lake *n.* a wide, open area, typically by the sea or a river, used for recreational activities or public events
40. deal with a tre_____er *n.* someone who unlawfully enters or intrudes upon someone else's property or land without permission; a person who intentionally or unintentionally violates boundaries, rules, or limits
41. sw__l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
42. re_____e education policy *v.* to change the form or structure of something
43. v__l music *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
44. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
45. mi_____n traffic *n.* the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district
46. wi__n a narrowed heart valve *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

ANSWERS: 37. landlocked, 38. spartan, 39. esplanade, 40. trespasser, 41. swirl, 42. reshape, 43. viol, 44. excite, 45. midtown, 46. widen

47. do_____ht impossible *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
48. sw__l up dirt and dust *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
49. railway vi_____t *n.* a long bridge or elevated structure, typically consisting of a series of arches or spans, used to carry a road, railroad, or canal over a valley, gorge, or other obstacle
50. v__l instrument *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
51. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
52. r__o a project *v.* to do again, usually to correct or improve upon a previous attempt; to renovate or redesign something to make it better or more suitable
53. tech w__k *n.* a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy
54. bronze pl___h *n.* a heavy base or support on which a statue, column, or other architectural element rests; a platform or pedestal that raises something above its surroundings or provides a solid foundation

ANSWERS: 47. downright, 48. swirl, 49. viaduct, 50. viol, 51. doe, 52. redo, 53. wonk, 54. plinth

55. sw____r in their bulletproof vests *v.* to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable
56. 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
57. el_____e educational standards *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
58. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
59. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
60. a de_____te scene *adj.* deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness
61. es_____de park *n.* a wide, open area, typically by the sea or a river, used for recreational activities or public events
62. bl__k future *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
63. do_____ht nonsense *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
64. ba_____pt business *adj.* unable to pay one's debts; having been reduced to a state of financial ruin; lacking in something essential or fundamental
65. sw____r under the scorching sun *v.* to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable

ANSWERS: 55. swelter, 56. sect, 57. elevate, 58. excite, 59. invade, 60. desolate, 61. esplanade, 62. bleak, 63. downright, 64. bankrupt, 65. swelter

66. cr__e advice from others *v.* to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely
67. the ou___t of the crisis *n.* the beginning of something
68. the gr_____ry in a courtyard *n.* plant life, especially lush and flourishing vegetation
69. phe_____lly quick *adv.* extremely or exceptionally, especially in a way that is surprising
70. nuclear wa_____nd *n.* a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value
71. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
72. vi_____nt watch *adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
73. main pl__a *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
74. und_____le outcome *adj.* not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance
75. month's ou___t *n.* the beginning of something
76. de_____e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

ANSWERS: 66. crave, 67. outset, 68. greenery, 69. phenomenally, 70. wasteland, 71. invade, 72. vigilant, 73. plaza, 74. undesirable, 75. outset, 76. degrade

85. post-apocalyptic wa_____nd *n.* a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value
86. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
87. hear customer's voices fi_____nd *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
88. und_____le behavior *adj.* not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance
89. marble pl___h *n.* a heavy base or support on which a statue, column, or other architectural element rests; a platform or pedestal that raises something above its surroundings or provides a solid foundation
90. a no_____p run *adj.* without intermediate stops between source and destination
91. product mo___p *n.* a full-scale or scaled-down model or representation of a design or concept, typically used for demonstration, evaluation, or testing purposes before the final product is produced
92. family bo_____h *n.* a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city

ANSWERS: 85. wasteland, 86. opportune, 87. firsthand, 88. undesirable, 89. plinth, 90. nonstop, 91. mockup, 92. borough

93. ste_____er role *n.* a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father
94. wooden ra_____g *n.* a horizontal barrier or fence supported by posts or columns, often used for safety or decorative purposes, particularly on balconies, staircases, or along the edge of a building or platform
95. prospects were bl__k *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
96. de_____te moon *adj.* deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness

ANSWERS: 93. stepfather, 94. railing, 95. bleak, 96. desolate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city
2. The mechanic had to _____ the engine to locate and fix the problem.
v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
3. It was a _____ lie that he would attend the event.
adj. (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
4. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.
adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
5. The political _____ analyzed every detail of the debate.
n. a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy
6. At the _____ of the project, we encountered several obstacles.
n. the beginning of something
7. The _____ country needed more access to ports and trade routes.
adj. referring to a country or region that is surrounded by land with no direct access to the sea or ocean
8. The heat was so intense that it made us _____.
v. to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable

ANSWERS: 1. skyscraper, 2. disassemble, 3. downright, 4. bleak, 5. wonk, 6. outset, 7. landlocked, 8. swelter

9. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.
v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
10. The conference is being held in _____ Manhattan.
n. the central area of a city or town, typically a busy commercial or business district
11. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
12. The highway passes over the valley on a _____ allowing for smooth traffic flow.
n. a long bridge or elevated structure, typically consisting of a series of arches or spans, used to carry a road, railroad, or canal over a valley, gorge, or other obstacle
13. The _____ council manages local services such as waste collection and street cleaning.
n. a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city
14. He _____ his investigation into a medical clinic.
v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
15. Some educators have adopted _____ techniques to reinforce positive behavior in their classrooms.
n. a psychological approach that emphasizes the study of observable behaviors and the environmental factors that influence them, often without reference to internal mental processes

ANSWERS: 9. elevates, 10. midtown, 11. opportune, 12. viaduct, 13. borough, 14. widened, 15. behaviorism

16. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
17. Three young men were busking in the shopping _____.
n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
18. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.
adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
19. The children held onto the _____ tightly as they walked up the steep staircase.
n. a horizontal barrier or fence supported by posts or columns, often used for safety or decorative purposes, particularly on balconies, staircases, or along the edge of a building or platform
20. I didn't get along with my _____ when I was young, but now we're like best friends.
n. a man who is married to one's mother but is not one's biological father
21. The designer created a website _____ to get client feedback before finalizing the design.
n. a full-scale or scaled-down model or representation of a design or concept, typically used for demonstration, evaluation, or testing purposes before the final product is produced
22. Unfortunately, the company went _____ and had to close its doors permanently.
adj. unable to pay one's debts; having been reduced to a state of financial ruin; lacking in something essential or fundamental

ANSWERS: 16. excited, 17. plaza, 18. firsthand, 19. railing, 20. stepfather, 21. mockup, 22. bankrupt

23. The smell of the garbage was very _____.

adj. not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance

24. The abandoned industrial site is now a _____ of decaying buildings and rusted machinery.

n. a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value

25. The heat of the day _____ the workers and slowed down productivity.

v. to weaken or drain someone's physical, mental, or emotional energy or vitality; to make someone feel exhausted, debilitated, or lacking in strength or enthusiasm

26. The city plans to add more _____ in public spaces to improve air quality and aesthetic.

n. plant life, especially lush and flourishing vegetation

27. The lovely seaside _____ provided a beautiful view of the ocean and a popular spot for evening walks.

n. a wide, open area, typically by the sea or a river, used for recreational activities or public events

28. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.

v. to change the form or structure of something

29. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

ANSWERS: 23. undesirable, 24. wasteland, 25. enervated, 26. greenery, 27. esplanade, 28. reshaped, 29. swirled

30. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.
- v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
31. The ____ player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.
- n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
32. The deserted island was _____ and uninhabited.
- adj.* deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness
33. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
34. She _____ success and is always pushing herself to do better.
- v.* to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely
35. The guards had to remain _____ to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.
- adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
36. I had to ____ my entire presentation because the formatting was off.
- v.* to do again, usually to correct or improve upon a previous attempt; to renovate or redesign something to make it better or more suitable
37. The soldier lived a _____ lifestyle, with few possessions and luxuries.
- adj.* of or relating to Sparta (= a prominent city-state in Laconia, in ancient Greece) or its people; showing self-discipline and determination, especially in the face of hardship or adversity

ANSWERS: 30. degrade, 31. viol, 32. desolate, 33. invade, 34. craves, 35. vigilant, 36. redo, 37. spartan

38. The statue was placed on a sturdy _____ in the park's center.
n. a heavy base or support on which a statue, column, or other architectural element rests; a platform or pedestal that raises something above its surroundings or provides a solid foundation
39. The diamond ring _____ in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.
v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
40. We tend to choose _____ flights when we travel.
adj. without intermediate stops between source and destination
41. 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
42. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
43. He had a _____ sense of humor and loved to make puns.
adj. characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests
44. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
45. We set up camp on the _____ to enjoy the breathtaking view of the surrounding valleys.
n. an elevated or high-lying area of land, typically with a higher elevation than the surrounding area, often characterized by hills, mountains, or plateaus

ANSWERS: 38. plinth, 39. gleamed, 40. nonstop, 41. sect, 42. reclaim, 43. geeky, 44. determinant, 45. upland

46. He became _____ successful in the entertainment industry.
adv. extremely or exceptionally, especially in a way that is surprising
47. The property owner caught a _____ in the backyard and called the police.
n. someone who unlawfully enters or intrudes upon someone else's property or land without permission; a person who intentionally or unintentionally violates boundaries, rules, or limits
48. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

ANSWERS: 46. phenomenally, 47. trespasser, 48. doe