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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Avinash Persaud: The climate crisis is expensive -- here's who should pay for it | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

pragmatic

adj. practical rather than idealistic

synonym: practical, realistic, down-to-earth

(1) **pragmatic** approach, (2) **pragmatic** politics

He was a **pragmatic** leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.

skeptic

n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

synonym: doubter, disbeliever, questioner

(1) an ingrained **skeptic**, (2) climate **skeptic**

He was a **skeptic** who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym: grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

compulsion

n. an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit

synonym : urge, obsession, drive

(1) **compulsion** to clean, (2) resistance to **compulsion**

She felt the **compulsion** to check her phone for messages every few minutes.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym : great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

compassionate

adj. feeling or showing sympathy and concern for the suffering or bad luck of others

synonym : empathetic, sympathetic, merciful

(1) a **compassionate** heart, (2) **compassionate** leave

My father has a serious and **compassionate** personality.

hairpin

n. a U-shaped or V-shaped piece of metal, plastic, or other material used for securing or holding hair in place; a sharp bend or curve in a road, often a hairpin turn, where the direction changes abruptly and sharply

(1) **hairpin** clip, (2) **hairpin** curve

She carefully navigated her way around the **hairpin** turns on the mountain road.

transfix

v. to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object

synonym : pierce, impale, stab

(1) **transfix** with horror, (2) **transfix** me with its vibrant colors

The athlete's incredible skill on the field **transfixed** the spectators, who were amazed by his talent.

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.

teem

v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

synonym : brim, swarm, overflow

(1) **teem** with activity, (2) **teem** down

The city **teems** with traffic on holiday.

monochromatic

adj. having only one color or consisting of shades of the same color; lacking in variety or diversity

synonym : monotone, uncolored, unvarying

(1) **monochromatic** color scheme, (2) **monochromatic** design

The artist created a beautiful **monochromatic** painting that showcased different shades of blue.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym : robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

resolute

adj. firm in purpose or belief; determined

synonym : determined, steadfast, unwavering

(1) **resolute** defiance, (2) **resolute** action

He was **resolute** in his determination to succeed.

halting

adj. hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently

synonym : stuttering, hesitant, faltering

(1) **halting** speech, (2) **halting** progress

The negotiations between the two countries were proceeding in a **halting** manner.

gasp

v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

synonym: breathe, pant, heave

(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock

The audience **gasped** when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

destabilize

v. to cause something to become less stable or secure

synonym: unsettle, disrupt, upset

(1) **destabilize** the market, (2) **destabilize** a good relationship

The political crisis **destabilized** the country and caused widespread turmoil.

decommission

v. to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair

synonym: retire, dismantle, disable

(1) **decommission** the dam, (2) **decommission** ship

After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to **decommission** the nuclear power plant.

scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

synonym: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

deport

v. to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime

synonym: expel, banish, repatriate

(1) **deport** a refugee, (2) **deport** dissidents from the party

The government has decided to **deport** illegal immigrants back to their home countries.

impasse

n. a situation in which progress or success is impossible due to a deadlock or stalemate; a point in a discussion or negotiation where no agreement can be reached

synonym: deadlock, standstill, stalemate

(1) an **impasse** in talks, (2) economic **impasse**

The negotiations had reached an **impasse**, with neither party willing to compromise further.

reluctance

n. a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking

synonym: hesitation, resistance, unwillingness

(1) overcoming **reluctance**, (2) **reluctance** in buying

The company's **reluctance** to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym : jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support

Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

countdown

n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

synonym : timer

(1) **countdown** clock, (2) wedding **countdown**

The **countdown** to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.

coronavirus

n. a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2

synonym : covid

(1) **coronavirus** antibody test kit, (2) **coronavirus**

bankruptcy

Considering the situation of **coronavirus**, organized stopped this year's beer festival.

altruism

n. the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity

synonym : selflessness, philanthropy, generosity

(1) acts of **altruism**, (2) **altruism** in society

His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical **altruism**.

financier

n. a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes

synonym : banker, investor, capitalist

(1) **financier** scandals, (2) powerful **financier**
The wealthy **financier** made a generous donation to the charity.

unproven

adj. not tested or proved

(1) **unproven** efficacy, (2) scientifically **unproven**
The new treatment's long-term advantages are still **unproven**.

livelihood

n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

synonym: occupation, living, income

(1) a means of **livelihood**, (2) **livelihood** assistance
I could no longer earn my own **livelihood**.

methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions
The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student
He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

slant

v. to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way

synonym: slope, tilt, incline

(1) **slant** upward, (2) **slant** a hat
The news article **slanted** the story in favor of one political party.

seawall

n. a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks

to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline

synonym : embankment, breakwater

(1) strong **seawall**, (2) **seawall** construction

The beachfront property owners installed a **seawall** to protect their homes from the rising tides.

fluctuation

n. a change, or the process of changing, that frequently happens, especially from one extreme to another; the quality of being unsteady and subject to changes

synonym : change, instability, flux

(1) price **fluctuations**, (2) **fluctuation** of water level

Temperature **fluctuations** are often milder in oceanfront areas.

capitalize

v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

synonym : bankroll, finance, endow

(1) **capitalize** on an interest, (2) **capitalize** the 1st letter of a word

You must **capitalize** on your full of opportunities to become a professor.

diversified

adj. characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types

synonym : varied, assorted, heterogeneous

(1) **diversified** portfolio, (2) **diversified** economy

The **diversified** menu offered options for everyone, from meat-eaters to vegetarians.

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.

unpopular

adj. not liked, supported, or approved by many people;
having an unfavorable reputation

synonym: disliked, unloved, unsupported

(1) **unpopular** decision, (2) an **unpopular** opinion

The politician's stance on controversial issues made him an **unpopular** candidate for many voters.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
2. des_____ze the market *v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
3. ha_____n curve *n.* a U-shaped or V-shaped piece of metal, plastic, or other material used for securing or holding hair in place; a sharp bend or curve in a road, often a hairpin turn, where the direction changes abruptly and sharply
4. an im_____e in talks *n.* a situation in which progress or success is impossible due to a deadlock or stalemate; a point in a discussion or negotiation where no agreement can be reached
5. dec_____ion the dam *v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
6. de___t dissidents from the party *v.* to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime
7. g__p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
8. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 1. industrious, 2. destabilize, 3. hairpin, 4. impasse, 5. decommission, 6. deport, 7. gasp, 8. industrious

9. climate sk____c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
10. give sm____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
11. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
12. a com_____ate heart *adj.* feeling or showing sympathy and concern for the suffering or bad luck of others
13. com_____on to clean *n.* an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit
14. re_____nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
15. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
16. an ingrained sk____c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
17. an un_____ar opinion *adj.* not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation

ANSWERS: 9. skeptic, 10. smashing, 11. seize, 12. compassionate, 13. compulsion, 14. resilient, 15. electrify, 16. skeptic, 17. unpopular

18. powerful fi_____er *n.* a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
19. strong se_____l *n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
20. g__p for air *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
21. price flu_____ons *n.* a change, or the process of changing, that frequently happens, especially from one extreme to another; the quality of being unsteady and subject to changes
22. t__m down *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
23. ha_____n clip *n.* a U-shaped or V-shaped piece of metal, plastic, or other material used for securing or holding hair in place; a sharp bend or curve in a road, often a hairpin turn, where the direction changes abruptly and sharply
24. liv_____od assistance *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

ANSWERS: 18. financier, 19. seawall, 20. gasp, 21. fluctuation, 22. teem, 23. hairpin, 24. livelihood

25. sc_____le my mind *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
26. pr_____ic approach *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
27. tr_____ix with horror *v.* to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object
28. a hard and re_____nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
29. dec_____ion ship *v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
30. 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
31. se_____l construction *n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
32. tr_____ix me with its vibrant colors *v.* to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object

ANSWERS: 25. scramble, 26. pragmatic, 27. transfix, 28. resilient, 29. decommission, 30. wasteland, 31. seawall, 32. transfix

33. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
34. re_____te action *adj.* firm in purpose or belief; determined
35. pr_____ic politics *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
36. al_____sm in society *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
37. re_____te defiance *adj.* firm in purpose or belief; determined
38. cor_____us bankruptcy *n.* a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2
39. un_____en efficacy *adj.* not tested or proved
40. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
41. overcoming rel_____ce *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
42. cap_____ze on an interest *v.* to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

ANSWERS: 33. afterward, 34. resolute, 35. pragmatic, 36. altruism, 37. resolute, 38. coronavirus, 39. unproven, 40. smashing, 41. reluctance, 42. capitalize

43. sc__f at the idea v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
44. scientifically un____en adj. not tested or proved
45. un_____ar decision adj. not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation
46. cap_____ze the 1st letter of a word v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
47. economic im_____e n. a situation in which progress or success is impossible due to a deadlock or stalemate; a point in a discussion or negotiation where no agreement can be reached
48. re_____e education policy v. to change the form or structure of something
49. 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
50. se__e the day v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

ANSWERS: 43. scoff, 44. unproven, 45. unpopular, 46. capitalize, 47. impasse, 48. reshape, 49. wasteland, 50. seize

51. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
52. flu_____on of water level *n.* a change, or the process of changing, that frequently happens, especially from one extreme to another; the quality of being unsteady and subject to changes
53. sl__t upward *v.* to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way
54. wedding co_____wn *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
55. co_____wn clock *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
56. cor_____us antibody test kit *n.* a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2
57. reduce me_____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

ANSWERS: 51. electrify, 52. fluctuation, 53. slant, 54. countdown, 55. countdown, 56. coronavirus, 57. methane

58. rel_____ce in buying *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
59. des_____ze a good relationship *v.* to cause something to become less stable or secure
60. fi_____er scandals *n.* a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
61. div_____ed portfolio *adj.* characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types
62. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
63. mon_____tic color scheme *adj.* having only one color or consisting of shades of the same color; lacking in variety or diversity
64. resistance to com_____on *n.* an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit
65. re_____e my thoughts *v.* to change the form or structure of something
66. acts of al_____sm *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
67. ha_____g progress *adj.* hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently

ANSWERS: 58. reluctance, 59. destabilize, 60. financier, 61. diversified, 62. scramble, 63. monochromatic, 64. compulsion, 65. reshape, 66. altruism, 67. halting

68. t__m with activity *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
69. div_____ed economy *adj.* characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types
70. sc__f at a rumor *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
71. ha_____g speech *adj.* hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently
72. sl__t a hat *v.* to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way
73. a means of liv_____od *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
74. atmospheric me_____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
75. com_____ate leave *adj.* feeling or showing sympathy and concern for the suffering or bad luck of others
76. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
77. mon_____tic design *adj.* having only one color or consisting of shades of the same color; lacking in variety or diversity
78. de____t a refugee *v.* to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime

ANSWERS: 68. teem, 69. diversified, 70. scoff, 71. halting, 72. slant, 73. livelihood, 74. methane, 75. compassionate, 76. afterward, 77. monochromatic, 78. deport

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She carefully navigated her way around the _____ turns on the mountain road.
n. a U-shaped or V-shaped piece of metal, plastic, or other material used for securing or holding hair in place; a sharp bend or curve in a road, often a hairpin turn, where the direction changes abruptly and sharply

2. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
v. to change the form or structure of something

3. I could no longer earn my own _____.
n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

4. He was _____ in his determination to succeed.
adj. firm in purpose or belief; determined

5. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

6. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

7. After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to _____ the nuclear power plant.
v. to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair

ANSWERS: 1. hairpin, 2. reshaped, 3. livelihood, 4. resolute, 5. industrious, 6. resilient, 7. decommission

8. The audience _____ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
- v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
9. The _____ to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.
- n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
10. He was a _____ leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.
- adj. practical rather than idealistic
11. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
12. The political crisis _____ the country and caused widespread turmoil.
- v. to cause something to become less stable or secure
13. You must _____ on your full of opportunities to become a professor.
- v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
14. The artist created a beautiful _____ painting that showcased different shades of blue.
- adj. having only one color or consisting of shades of the same color; lacking in variety or diversity

ANSWERS: 8. gasped, 9. countdown, 10. pragmatic, 11. electrify, 12. destabilized, 13. capitalize, 14. monochromatic

15. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
16. The company's _____ to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.
n. a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
17. His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical _____.
n. the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
18. Considering the situation of _____ organized stopped this year's beer festival.
n. a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2
19. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.
v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
20. The politician's stance on controversial issues made him an _____ candidate for many voters.
adj. not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation

ANSWERS: 15. smashing, 16. reluctance, 17. altruism, 18. coronavirus, 19. seize, 20. unpopular

21. My father has a serious and _____ personality.

adj. feeling or showing sympathy and concern for the suffering or bad luck of others

22. The new treatment's long-term advantages are still _____.

adj. not tested or proved

23. The government has decided to _____ illegal immigrants back to their home countries.

v. to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime

24. The city _____ with traffic on holiday.

v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

25. 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

26. The news article _____ the story in favor of one political party.

v. to lean or slope in a particular direction; to present or interpret information or a situation in a biased or distorted way

27. She felt the _____ to check her phone for messages every few minutes.

n. an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit

28. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

ANSWERS: 21. compassionate, 22. unproven, 23. deport, 24. teems, 25. wasteland, 26. slanted, 27. compulsion, 28. methane

29. He was a _____ who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.
- n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
30. The beachfront property owners installed a _____ to protect their homes from the rising tides.
- n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
31. The negotiations between the two countries were proceeding in a _____ manner.
- adj.* hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently
32. The wealthy _____ made a generous donation to the charity.
- n.* a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
33. The athlete's incredible skill on the field _____ the spectators, who were amazed by his talent.
- v.* to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object
34. Temperature _____ are often milder in oceanfront areas.
- n.* a change, or the process of changing, that frequently happens, especially from one extreme to another; the quality of being unsteady and subject to changes
35. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.
- v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

ANSWERS: 29. skeptic, 30. seawall, 31. halting, 32. financier, 33. transfixed, 34. fluctuations, 35. scrambled

36. The negotiations had reached an _____ with neither party willing to compromise further.

n. a situation in which progress or success is impossible due to a deadlock or stalemate; a point in a discussion or negotiation where no agreement can be reached

37. The _____ menu offered options for everyone, from meat-eaters to vegetarians.

adj. characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types

38. We tend to _____ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

39. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

adv. after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 36. impasse, 37. diversified, 38. scoff, 39. afterward