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Tan Le: My immigration story | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

astonishing

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

synonym: surprising, shocking, astounding

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

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

huddle

v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

synonym: cluster, crowd, group

(1) **huddle** in a temporary shelter, (2) **huddle** around the open fire

The children **huddled** together for warmth in the cold winter storm.

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.

playwright

n. a person who writes plays

synonym: dramatist, scribe, librettist

(1) acclaimed **playwright**, (2) a **playwright** attached to the theatre

The **playwright's** work was praised by critics and audiences alike.

distill

v. to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements

synonym: extract, condense, purify

(1) **distill** a liquid, (2) **distill** information

She decided to **distill** her thoughts into a more manageable list.

inconceivable

adj. hard to imagine or believe

synonym: unimaginable, impossible, unthinkable

(1) **inconceivable** pain, (2) **inconceivable** ideas

It would be **inconceivable** for him to alter his behavior.

saga

n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes

synonym: epic, tale, chronicle

(1) fantasy **saga**, (2) historical **saga**

The epic **saga** of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.

defy

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

synonym: challenge, resist, disobey

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

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

disguise

v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

synonym: mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

bluff

v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

synonym : abrupt, cliff, precipice

(1) **bluff** the other side, (2) riverside **bluff**

He **bluffed** a person out of going.

bravado

n. a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere

synonym : boldness, swagger, arrogance

(1) lose my **bravado**, (2) heroic **bravado**

The show of **bravado** by the bully only served to mask his insecurity and fear.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

oblivious

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

synonym : forgetful, clueless, unaware

(1) **oblivious** of his promise, (2) **oblivious** to our response

She was so engrossed in her work that she was **oblivious** to her surroundings.

entitle

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

synonym : allow, permit, enable

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

the logo

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

snippet

n. a small piece or brief extract of something

synonym: fragment, excerpt, brief

(1) **snippet** of wisdom, (2) code **snippet**

The journalist saved a **snippet** of the interview for later reference.

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.

secondhand

adj. having been previously owned or used by someone else

synonym: used, pre-owned, recycled

(1) **secondhand** car, (2) **secondhand** information

He was excited to find a vintage suit at the **secondhand** shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.

sear

v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

synonym: scorch, cook, burn

(1) **sear** tissue using a hot iron, (2) **sear** the memory into your mind

Be careful not to **sear** the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

slit

n. a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors

synonym: slash, incision, cut

(1) **slit** pocket, (2) **slit** the fabric

He made a small **slit** in the paper to fit it in the envelope.

graffiti

n. writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place

synonym: street art, tagging, vandalism

(1) **graffiti** art, (2) **graffiti** tag

The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the **graffiti** on the buildings downtown.

stiffen

v. to make or become stiff or rigid; to become inflexible or unyielding in one's attitude or behavior

synonym: harden, solidify, tense

(1) **stiffen** joints, (2) **stiffen** penalties

The cold weather made my muscles **stiffen** up.

inflexible

adj. not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding

synonym: rigid, unyielding, unadaptable

(1) **inflexible** rule, (2) take an **inflexible** stance

His **inflexible** schedule did not allow for any changes.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

enmesh

v. to entangle or involve someone or something in a complicated or difficult situation; to catch or trap as if in a net or mesh; to become entangled or caught up in

something

synonym : entangle, trap, ensnare

(1) **enmesh** the fly in its web, (2) become **enmeshed** in legal battles

Her family drama **enmeshed** her in a web of lies and deceit.

precarious

adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

synonym : precariousness, instability, uncertainty

(1) **precarious** job, (2) **precarious** financial situation

She had a **precarious** hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.

scar

n. a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed

synonym : blemish, imperfection, blotch

(1) burn **scar**, (2) carry a **scar**

Even after the wound has healed, a **scar** remains.

catapult

n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance

synonym : launcher, trebuchet, slingshot

(1) powerful **catapult**, (2) **catapult** mechanism

The army used a **catapult** to launch large rocks over the castle walls.

cutlery

n. a collective term for utensils used for eating and serving food, typically made of metal, such as knives, forks, and spoons

synonym : silverware, utensils, flatware

(1) silver **cutlery**, (2) plastic **cutlery**

The restaurant set the table with gleaming **cutlery** for the fine dining experience.

unsung

adj. not praised or famous but deserving to be recognized for one's accomplishments or contributions; not publicized or acclaimed

synonym :

unknown, unrecognized, unappreciated

(1) **unsung** accomplishment, (2) **unsung** songwriter

The community's **unsung** heroes often go unnoticed but are essential to its well-being.

disenfranchise

v. to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote

synonym: deny, exclude, marginalize

(1) **disenfranchise** voters, (2) **disenfranchise** citizens

The new citizenship laws will **disenfranchise** many immigrants.

outsider

n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

synonym: stranger, foreigner, alien

(1) **outsider** perspective, (2) **outsider** artist

Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an **outsider** at times.

presumption

n. an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity

synonym: assumption, arrogance, audacity

(1) **presumption** against forfeiture, (2) **presumption** of guilt

It is a common **presumption** that doctors know best, but patients should always ask questions and be informed about their healthcare decisions.

implacable

adj. incapable of being appeased or pacified; relentless, unstoppable, or unyielding

synonym: inflexible, relentless, unyielding

(1) **implacable** criticism, (2) **implacable** hatred

Despite multiple negotiations, the opposing sides remained **implacable** and unwilling to compromise.

optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym : positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

humility

n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

synonym : humbleness, modesty, unpretentiousness

(1) develop an attitude of **humility**, (2) lack of **humility**

We were filled with **humility** at the sight of the Queen.

daring

adj. brave and taking risks

synonym : audacious, bold, venturesome

(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face

Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

hunch

v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof

synonym : crouch, guess, speculate

(1) **hunch** against the rain, (2) **hunch** up the shoulders

I **hunch** over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.

irresistible

adj. impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling

synonym : resistless, overpowering, compelling

(1) **irresistible** charm, (2) **irresistible** force

The aroma of freshly baked cookies was **irresistible** to her.

relocate

v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there

synonym: emigrate, resettle, migrate

(1) **relocate** a company, (2) **relocate** with a new job

The university **relocated** to campuses several miles away.

mandarin

n. an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China

synonym: Chinese, Beijing dialect

(1) ancient **mandarin** house, (2) **Mandarin** Chinese

Mandarin dialects typically have relatively few vowels.

prosecute

v. to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

synonym: charge, sue, bring to trial

(1) **prosecute** criminal, (2) **prosecute** case

The attorney decided to **prosecute** the suspect for stealing from the store.

casket

n. a rectangular container, often made of wood or metal, in which a dead body is placed for burial or cremation

synonym: coffin, sarcophagus, chest

(1) plain **casket**, (2) wooden **casket**

The funeral director closed the **casket** and secured it with screws.

monk

n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

synonym: friar, cleric, brother

(1) **monk** lifestyle, (2) cloistered **monk**

The ascetic **monk** spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.

sinew

n. a tough, fibrous tissue that connects muscles to bones, allowing for movement and strength; a source of

strength, energy, or resilience

synonym : tendon, ligament, muscle fiber

(1) flexible **sinews**, (2) **sinew** injury

The hunter aimed at the animal's **sinew**, knowing it would be a fatal shot.

thwart

v. to prevent something from happening or succeeding

synonym : hinder, block, obstruct

(1) **thwart** enemy plans, (2) **thwart** attempts

He **thwarted** the thief's attempt to steal the painting.

unperturbed

adj. not troubled, worried, or disturbed; calm and composed; not affected by emotional or external factors

synonym : calm, composed, peaceful

(1) **unperturbed** confidence, (2) **unperturbed** demeanor

Despite the criticism, he remained **unperturbed** and continued with his work.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. inc_____ble pain | <i>adj.</i> hard to imagine or believe |
| 2. develop an attitude of hu_____ty | <i>n.</i> the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self |
| 3. s__r tissue using a hot iron | <i>v.</i> to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time |
| 4. irr_____ble charm | <i>adj.</i> impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling |
| 5. code sn_____t | <i>n.</i> a small piece or brief extract of something |
| 6. re_____te with a new job | <i>v.</i> to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there |
| 7. en_____e the company to use the logo | <i>v.</i> to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something |
| 8. hu__h up the shoulders | <i>v.</i> to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof |
| 9. become en___hed in legal battles | <i>v.</i> to entangle or involve someone or something in a complicated or difficult situation; to catch or trap as if in a net or mesh; to become entangled or caught up in something |

ANSWERS: 1. inconceivable, 2. humility, 3. sear, 4. irresistible, 5. snippet, 6. relocate, 7. entitle, 8. hunch, 9. enmesh

10. th__t enemy plans *v.* to prevent something from happening or succeeding
11. di____se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
12. dis_____ise citizens *v.* to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote
13. cloistered m__k *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
14. s__t pocket *n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
15. burn s__r *n.* a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed
16. s__r the memory into your mind *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
17. lose my br____o *n.* a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere
18. face rel_____ss pressure *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
19. un__g accomplishment *adj.* not praised or famous but deserving to be recognized for one's accomplishments or contributions; not publicized or acclaimed

ANSWERS: 10. thwart, 11. disguise, 12. disenfranchise, 13. monk, 14. slit, 15. scar, 16. sear, 17. bravado, 18. relentless, 19. unsung

20. lack of hu____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
21. sn____t of wisdom *n.* a small piece or brief extract of something
22. d__y authority *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
23. dis_____ise voters *v.* to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote
24. a pla_____ht attached to the theatre *n.* a person who writes plays
25. unp_____ed demeanor *adj.* not troubled, worried, or disturbed; calm and composed; not affected by emotional or external factors
26. hu___e in a temporary shelter *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
27. ou_____er artist *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
28. take an inf_____le stance *adj.* not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding
29. ob_____us to our response *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
30. da___g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
31. acclaimed pla_____ht *n.* a person who writes plays

ANSWERS: 20. humility, 21. snippet, 22. defy, 23. disenfranchise, 24. playwright, 25. unperturbed, 26. huddle, 27. outsider, 28. inflexible, 29. oblivious, 30. daring, 31. playwright

32. sec_____nd information *adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else
33. hu__h against the rain *v.* to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
34. ch__t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
35. plain ca____t *n.* a rectangular container, often made of wood or metal, in which a dead body is placed for burial or cremation
36. pre_____us financial situation *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
37. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
38. plastic cu____y *n.* a collective term for utensils used for eating and serving food, typically made of metal, such as knives, forks, and spoons
39. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
40. ch__t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

ANSWERS: 32. secondhand, 33. hunch, 34. chant, 35. casket, 36. precarious, 37. astonishing, 38. cutlery, 39. aft, 40. chant

41. re_____te a company *v.* to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
42. political op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
43. d__y gravity *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
44. ob_____us of his promise *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
45. en_____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
46. ou_____er perspective *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
47. wooden ca____t *n.* a rectangular container, often made of wood or metal, in which a dead body is placed for burial or cremation
48. powerful ca_____lt *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
49. di_____l a liquid *v.* to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements
50. th____t attempts *v.* to prevent something from happening or succeeding

ANSWERS: 41. relocate, 42. optimism, 43. defy, 44. oblivious, 45. entitle, 46. outsider, 47. casket, 48. catapult, 49. distill, 50. thwart

51. flexible si__ws *n.* a tough, fibrous tissue that connects muscles to bones, allowing for movement and strength; a source of strength, energy, or resilience
52. sec_____nd car *adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else
53. make a da___g face *adj.* brave and taking risks
54. ancient ma_____in house *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
55. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
56. Ma_____in Chinese *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
57. st_____n joints *v.* to make or become stiff or rigid; to become inflexible or unyielding in one's attitude or behavior
58. di_____se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
59. pre_____us job *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
60. m__k lifestyle *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

ANSWERS: 51. sinew, 52. secondhand, 53. daring, 54. mandarin, 55. aft, 56. mandarin, 57. stiffen, 58. disguise, 59. precarious, 60. monk

61. historical s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
62. silver cu____y *n.* a collective term for utensils used for eating and serving food, typically made of metal, such as knives, forks, and spoons
63. gr____ti art *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
64. 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
65. un____g songwriter *adj.* not praised or famous but deserving to be recognized for one's accomplishments or contributions; not publicized or acclaimed
66. en____h the fly in its web *v.* to entangle or involve someone or something in a complicated or difficult situation; to catch or trap as if in a net or mesh; to become entangled or caught up in something
67. ha____g speech *adj.* hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently

ANSWERS: 61. saga, 62. cutlery, 63. graffiti, 64. jigsaw, 65. unsung, 66. enmesh, 67. halting

68. inc_____ble ideas *adj.* hard to imagine or believe
69. di_____l information *v.* to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements
70. imp_____le hatred *adj.* incapable of being appeased or pacified; relentless, unstoppable, or unyielding
71. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
72. s__t the fabric *n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
73. ca_____lt mechanism *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
74. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
75. si__w injury *n.* a tough, fibrous tissue that connects muscles to bones, allowing for movement and strength; a source of strength, energy, or resilience
76. gr_____ti tag *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
77. 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

ANSWERS: 68. inconceivable, 69. distill, 70. implacable, 71. astonishing, 72. slit, 73. catapult, 74. relentless, 75. sinew, 76. graffiti, 77. jigsaw

78. hu___e around the open fire *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
79. heroic br____o *n.* a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere
80. st____n penalties *v.* to make or become stiff or rigid; to become inflexible or unyielding in one's attitude or behavior
81. ha____g progress *adj.* hesitant or wavering in speech or action; faltering; stopping or pausing repeatedly and intermittently
82. riverside bl__f *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion
83. inf____le rule *adj.* not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding
84. pre____on against forfeiture *n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity
85. irr____ble force *adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
86. bl__f the other side *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

ANSWERS: 78. huddle, 79. bravado, 80. stiffen, 81. halting, 82. bluff, 83. inflexible, 84. presumption, 85. irresistible, 86. bluff

87. fantasy s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
88. pr_____te criminal *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
89. pre_____on of guilt *n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity
90. sense of op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
91. carry a s__r *n.* a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed
92. unp_____ed confidence *adj.* not troubled, worried, or disturbed; calm and composed; not affected by emotional or external factors
93. imp_____le criticism *adj.* incapable of being appeased or pacified; relentless, unstoppable, or unyielding
94. pr_____te case *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

ANSWERS: 87. saga, 88. prosecute, 89. presumption, 90. optimism, 91. scar, 92. unperturbed, 93. implacable, 94. prosecute

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We were filled with _____ at the sight of the Queen.
n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

2. _____ dialects typically have relatively few vowels.
n. an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China

3. He _____ a person out of going.
v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

4. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.
adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

5. Despite multiple negotiations, the opposing sides remained _____ and unwilling to compromise.
adj. incapable of being appeased or pacified; relentless, unstoppable, or unyielding

6. Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an _____ at times.
n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

7. It is a common _____ that doctors know best, but patients should always ask questions and be informed about their healthcare decisions.
n. an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity

ANSWERS: 1. humility, 2. Mandarin, 3. bluffed, 4. relentless, 5. implacable, 6. outsider, 7. presumption

8. The _____ work was praised by critics and audiences alike.
n. a person who writes plays
9. The new citizenship laws will _____ many immigrants.
v. to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote
10. The attorney decided to _____ the suspect for stealing from the store.
v. to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
11. The epic ____ of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.
n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
12. The show of _____ by the bully only served to mask his insecurity and fear.
n. a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere
13. The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the _____ on the buildings downtown.
n. writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
14. Later it turned out that the politician _____ the fact from the public.
v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
15. The ascetic ____ spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.
n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

ANSWERS: 8. playwright's, 9. disenfranchise, 10. prosecute, 11. saga, 12. bravado, 13. graffiti, 14. disguised, 15. monk

16. The children _____ together for warmth in the cold winter storm.
v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
17. The aroma of freshly baked cookies was _____ to her.
adj. impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
18. I _____ over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.
v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
19. He _____ the thief's attempt to steal the painting.
v. to prevent something from happening or succeeding
20. Even after the wound has healed, a _____ remains.
n. a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed
21. He made a small _____ in the paper to fit it in the envelope.
n. a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
22. Despite the criticism, he remained _____ and continued with his work.
adj. not troubled, worried, or disturbed; calm and composed; not affected by emotional or external factors
23. There is considerable _____ that the economy will recover soon.
n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

ANSWERS: 16. huddled, 17. irresistible, 18. hunch, 19. thwarted, 20. scar, 21. slit, 22. unperturbed, 23. optimism

24. The journalist saved a _____ of the interview for later reference.
n. a small piece or brief extract of something
25. Be careful not to _____ the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.
v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
26. She decided to _____ her thoughts into a more manageable list.
v. to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements
27. The funeral director closed the _____ and secured it with screws.
n. a rectangular container, often made of wood or metal, in which a dead body is placed for burial or cremation
28. The restaurant set the table with gleaming _____ for the fine dining experience.
n. a collective term for utensils used for eating and serving food, typically made of metal, such as knives, forks, and spoons
29. The army used a _____ to launch large rocks over the castle walls.
n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance
30. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
31. The _____ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

ANSWERS: 24. snippet, 25. sear, 26. distill, 27. casket, 28. cutlery, 29. catapult, 30. entitled, 31. aft

32. Her family drama _____ her in a web of lies and deceit.

- v.* to entangle or involve someone or something in a complicated or difficult situation; to catch or trap as if in a net or mesh; to become entangled or caught up in something

33. She had a _____ hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.

- adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

34. He was excited to find a vintage suit at the _____ shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.

- adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else

35. She tried to _____ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

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

36. His _____ schedule did not allow for any changes.

- adj.* not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding

37. The community's _____ heroes often go unnoticed but are essential to its well-being.

- adj.* not praised or famous but deserving to be recognized for one's accomplishments or contributions; not publicized or acclaimed

38. The hunter aimed at the animal's _____ knowing it would be a fatal shot.

- n.* a tough, fibrous tissue that connects muscles to bones, allowing for movement and strength; a source of strength, energy, or resilience

39. 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: 32. enmeshed, 33. precarious, 34. secondhand, 35. defy, 36. inflexible,

37. unsung, 38. sinew, 39. jigsaw

40. She was so engrossed in her work that she was _____ to her surroundings.
adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
41. The university _____ to campuses several miles away.
v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
42. It would be _____ for him to alter his behavior.
adj. hard to imagine or believe
43. Her choices become increasingly _____ and creative.
adj. brave and taking risks
44. The cold weather made my muscles _____ up.
v. to make or become stiff or rigid; to become inflexible or unyielding in one's attitude or behavior
45. 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
46. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"
n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
47. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.
adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

ANSWERS: 40. oblivious, 41. relocated, 42. inconceivable, 43. daring, 44. stiffen, 45. halting, 46. chant, 47. astonishing

ANSWERS: