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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mark Pagel: How language transformed humanity |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

posse

n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

synonym: crew, gang, retinue

(1) **posse** member, (2) **posse** of citizens

My friends and I formed a **posse** to search for the lost hiker.

subversive

adj. intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

synonym: incendiary, dissident, (noun) rebel

(1) **subversive** elements, (2) **subversive** literature

The artwork was criticized for its **subversive** theme that undermined religious beliefs.

trait

n. a particular feature of your nature

synonym: attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

devise

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

synonym : create, concoct, invent

(1) **devise** a plan, (2) **devise** a literary plot

They had to **devise** a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

rewire

v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

synonym : rewire, renovate, upgrade

(1) **rewire** a house, (2) **rewire** a program

I need to **rewire** the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.

telemetry

n. the process of collecting and transmitting data from remote or inaccessible sources using wireless or other communication means, usually for monitoring or control purposes

synonym : data transmission, remote measurement

(1) **telemetry** technology, (2) **telemetry** system

The satellite sends **telemetry** data back to Earth to help scientists study the atmosphere.

babel

n. a loud noise, typically referring to the confusion of many voices talking at once, derived from the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, in which God caused confusion among people by making them speak different languages

synonym : confusion, chaos, disorder

(1) a **babel** of confusion, (2) **babel** of languages

The classroom was a **babel** of excitement as the students prepared for their field trip.

fable

n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

synonym : fantasy, story, legend

(1) classic **fable**, (2) moralize a **fable**

In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known **fable**.

conceit

n. an excessively high opinion of oneself; self-importance

synonym: vanity, egotism, self-importance

(1) full of **conceit**, (2) puffed up with **conceit**

His vain **conceit** made it difficult for him to work well with others.

usurp

v. to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

synonym: seize, preempt, annex

(1) **usurp** power, (2) attempt to **usurp** the throne

The competitor tried to **usurp** the reigning champion's title.

scatter

v. to cause to separate and go in different directions

synonym: disperse, spread, bestrew

(1) **scatter** seeds, (2) **scatter** around the internet

The hunter's approach **scattered** the geese.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

accost

v. to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently

synonym: approach, confront, speak to

(1) **accost** a stranger, (2) **accost** a suspect

The man **accosted** her on the street and asked for money.

fuss

n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

synonym: commotion, agitation, disturbance

(1) make a **fuss**, (2) get into a **fuss**

There was a **fuss** about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.

chimpanzee

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

synonym : ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

termite

n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture

synonym : woodworm, white ant, insect

(1) **termite** damage, (2) **termite** inspection

The house was infested with **termites** and required extensive repairs.

shovel

n. a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials

synonym : excavator, scoop, trowel

(1) snow **shovel**, (2) **shovel** blade

The construction workers used a power **shovel** to dig the foundation for the building.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym : mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds
He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

arrogant

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

synonym: haughty, supercilious, disdainful

(1) an **arrogant** attitude, (2) grow **arrogant**

He was so **arrogant** that he thought he was always right.

hubris

n. excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin

synonym: arrogance, conceit, pride

(1) political **hubris**, (2) **hubris** in business

The athlete's **hubris** resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

ape

n. a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons

synonym: monkey, primate, simian

(1) jungle **ape**, (2) play the **ape**

The scientist studied the behavior of **apes** in the wild.

savannah

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

synonym: grassland, plain

(1) **savannah** region, (2) tropical **savannah**

The birds live in tropical forests, **savannahs**, and arid semi-desert environments.

ax *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
synonym : hatchet, chopper, tomahawk
(1) chop wood with an **ax**, (2) an **ax** in the toolbox
He used an **ax** to chop the firewood for the campfire.

taint *v.* to damage or spoil the quality or integrity of something, particularly through association with a negative or undesirable influence or element
synonym : corrupt, infect, spoil
(1) **taint** the government, (2) **taint** the atmosphere worldwide
The scandal will **taint** his reputation for years to come.

bustle *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
synonym : hurry, rush, flurry
(1) **bustle** around a kitchen, (2) hustle- **bustle** lifestyle
The city **bustled** with activity as people rushed to work.

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.

auditorium *n.* a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
synonym : hall, theater, amphitheater
(1) open-air **auditorium**, (2) **auditorium** annex
The **auditorium** seating was filled with people waiting for the concert to begin.

prosper *v.* to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
synonym : thrive, flourish, succeed
(1) **prosper** in the long run, (2) **prosper** as a trading hub

With careful planning and hard work, she was able to **prosper** in her new business venture.

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.

lure

v. to tempt or persuade someone to do something

synonym: tempt, entice, attract

(1) **lure** prey, (2) **lure** foreign investment

The salesperson used a special offer to **lure** customers into buying the product.

flake

n. a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

synonym: chip, bit, shred

(1) **flakes** of snow, (2) **flake** graphite

She found a paint **flake** on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.

mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym: fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

behoove

v. to be necessary, proper, or advantageous for someone to do something; to be fitting or appropriate in a particular situation

synonym : be necessary, benefit, suit

(1) it **behooves** the politician to act ethically, (2) **behooves** employees to abide by the policies

It would **behoove** you to double-check your work before submitting it.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym : despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

gesticulate

v. to make gestures, especially with one's hands or arms, while speaking or expressing oneself; to convey emotions or thoughts using dramatic or vigorous gestures

synonym : signal, indicate, gesture

(1) **gesticulate** to communicate with friends, (2) **gesticulate** with his hands

The speaker **gesticulated** wildly as they spoke, emphasizing their words.

scuffle

n. a short, confused fight or struggle, usually involving a small number of people; a disorderly or noisy quarrel or altercation

synonym : brawl, conflict, skirmish

(1) verbal **scuffle**, (2) gang **scuffle**

After a heated argument during the football match, a **scuffle**

broke out between two fans.

ensue

v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something

synonym: follow, occur, result

(1) **ensue** within a few years, (2) predict what will **ensue**
A power outage **ensued** after the storm knocked out the electricity.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym: poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest
He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

languish

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time

synonym: flag, wane, wither

(1) **languish** for lack of funding, (2) **languish** under illness
He continues to **languish** in prison.

cathedral

n. the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area

synonym: church, basilica, temple

(1) **cathedral** school, (2) **cathedral** choir

The **cathedral's** stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**
She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

confine

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something

synonym: restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use

The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

diverge

v. to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course

synonym: separate, split, part

(1) **diverge** from tradition, (2) **diverge** from the main topic

As tectonic plates **diverge**, new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.

guinea

n. a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic

synonym: coin, money, currency

(1) **guinea** coins, (2) **guinea** pig

The cost of the antique vase is three **guineas**.

oceanic

adj. relating to or characteristic of the ocean or its inhabitants; having to do with the vast expanse of saltwater that covers most of the Earth's surface

synonym: marine, pelagic, sea

(1) **oceanic** climate, (2) **oceanic** exploration

The **oceanic** waves crashed against the shore, creating a mesmerizing sight.

eavesdrop

v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission

synonym: listen in, spy, overhear

(1) **eavesdrop** conversation, (2) **eavesdrop** on a secret plot

I accidentally **eavesdropped** on a confidential meeting last week.

distasteful

adj. unpleasant or offensive to the sense of taste

synonym: unpleasant, unsatisfying, disagreeable

(1) **distasteful** to her, (2) **distasteful** remark

The food served at the dinner party could have been more appealing and **distasteful**.

dally

v. to waste time or linger aimlessly or idly; to engage in playful or flirtatious behavior without serious intent; to delay or procrastinate on something that requires attention or action

synonym: linger, procrastinate, flirt

(1) **dally** with the idea, (2) **dally** in procrastination

If you **dally** in the decision for too long, the opportunity might pass you by.

conduit

n. a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts

synonym: channel, pipeline, tube

(1) water **conduit**, (2) electrical **conduit**

The **conduit** between the two buildings carried water and electricity.

coexist

v. to live or exist together at the same time in the same place

synonym: cohabit, accompany, synchronize

(1) **coexist** with nature, (2) **coexist** with diversity

The different species can **coexist** in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym: dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

inexorable

adj. describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect

synonym: relentless, implacable, unyielding

(1) **inexorable** decline, (2) **inexorable** force

His **inexorable** determination to succeed made him a force to

be reckoned with.

imprint

- v. to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone

synonym: impress, stamp, engrave

(1) DNA **imprint**, (2) **imprint** a memory

He wanted to **imprint** his brand logo on the product.

blackboard

- n. a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk

synonym: chalkboard, slate

(1) chalk on a **blackboard**, (2) electronic **blackboard**

The teacher asked me to rub out the **blackboard**.

matte

- adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

synonym: dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

Session 2: Spelling

1. im____t a memory
v. to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone
2. puffed up with co____t
n. an excessively high opinion of oneself; self-importance
3. gang sc____e
n. a short, confused fight or struggle, usually involving a small number of people; a disorderly or noisy quarrel or altercation
4. s__b in the chest
v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
5. verbal sc____e
n. a short, confused fight or struggle, usually involving a small number of people; a disorderly or noisy quarrel or altercation
6. te____ry system
n. the process of collecting and transmitting data from remote or inaccessible sources using wireless or other communication means, usually for monitoring or control purposes
7. t__m down
v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

ANSWERS: 1. imprint, 2. conceit, 3. scuffle, 4. stab, 5. scuffle, 6. telemetry, 7. teem

8. bu___e around a kitchen *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
9. te_____e damage *n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
10. mu_____om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
11. mu_____om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
12. full of co_____t *n.* an excessively high opinion of oneself; self-importance
13. ba__l of languages *n.* a loud noise, typically referring to the confusion of many voices talking at once, derived from the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, in which God caused confusion among people by making them speak different languages
14. electronic bla_____rd *n.* a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
15. re___e a house *v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
16. ho_____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 8. bustle, 9. termite, 10. mushroom, 11. mushroom, 12. conceit, 13. babel, 14. blackboard, 15. rewire, 16. hopeless

17. open-air aud_____um *n.* a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
18. ta__t the government *v.* to damage or spoil the quality or integrity of something, particularly through association with a negative or undesirable influence or element
19. chi_____ee behavior *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
20. attempt to us__p the throne *v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
21. ca_____al school *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
22. oc_____c exploration *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the ocean or its inhabitants; having to do with the vast expanse of saltwater that covers most of the Earth's surface
23. photo with a ma__e finish *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
24. re___e a program *v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
25. water co_____t *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts

ANSWERS: 17. auditorium, 18. taint, 19. chimpanzee, 20. usurp, 21. cathedral, 22. oceanic, 23. matte, 24. rewire, 25. conduit

26. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
27. make a f__s *n.* a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
28. ea_____op on a secret plot *v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
29. ex____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
30. sub_____ve elements *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution
31. sc____r seeds *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
32. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
33. hustle-bu___e lifestyle *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
34. predict what will en__e *v.* to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
35. gu___a pig *n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic

ANSWERS: 26. ancestor, 27. fuss, 28. eavesdrop, 29. extinct, 30. subversive, 31. scatter, 32. pretension, 33. bustle, 34. ensue, 35. guinea

36. pr____r in the long run *v.* to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
37. di____e from the main topic *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
38. l__e prey *v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
39. te____e inspection *n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
40. de____e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
41. social ant______ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
42. co____t with diversity *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
43. co____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
44. gu____a coins *n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
45. chi____ee society *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

ANSWERS: 36. prosper, 37. diverge, 38. lure, 39. termite, 40. devise, 41. anthropology, 42. coexist, 43. confuse, 44. guinea, 45. chimpanzee

46. da__y with the idea *v.* to waste time or linger aimlessly or idly; to engage in playful or flirtatious behavior without serious intent; to delay or procrastinate on something that requires attention or action
47. di_____e from tradition *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
48. sh___l blade *n.* a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
49. us__p power *v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
50. be_____es employees to abide by the policies *v.* to be necessary, proper, or advantageous for someone to do something; to be fitting or appropriate in a particular situation
51. ges_____te with his hands *v.* to make gestures, especially with one's hands or arms, while speaking or expressing oneself; to convey emotions or thoughts using dramatic or vigorous gestures
52. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
53. co_____e themselves solely *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
54. tropical sa_____ah *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

ANSWERS: 46. dally, 47. diverge, 48. shovel, 49. usurp, 50. behoove, 51. gesticulate, 52. ancestor, 53. confine, 54. savannah

55. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
56. long-ex____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence
57. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
58. en__e within a few years *v.* to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
59. ho____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
60. im____e animal sounds *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
61. ac__t a stranger *v.* to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently
62. co____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
63. ant____ogy of religion *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
64. co____e the scope of use *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
65. ea____op conversation *v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
66. DNA im____t *v.* to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone

ANSWERS: 55. stab, 56. extinct, 57. trait, 58. ensue, 59. hopeless, 60. imitate, 61. accost, 62. confuse, 63. anthropology, 64. confine, 65. eavesdrop, 66. imprint

67. la____sh for lack of funding *v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time
68. classic fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
69. co____t with nature *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
70. t__m with activity *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
71. po__e of citizens *n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
72. baseless pre____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
73. fl__e graphite *n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent
74. sub____ve literature *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

ANSWERS: 67. languish, 68. fable, 69. coexist, 70. teem, 71. posse, 72. pretension, 73. flake, 74. subversive

75. chalk on a bla_____rd *n.* a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
76. electrical co_____t *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
77. da__y in procrastination *v.* to waste time or linger aimlessly or idly; to engage in playful or flirtatious behavior without serious intent; to delay or procrastinate on something that requires attention or action
78. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
79. ac____t a suspect *v.* to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently
80. chop wood with an ax *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
81. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
82. sc_____r around the internet *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions

ANSWERS: 75. blackboard, 76. conduit, 77. dally, 78. determinant, 79. accost, 80. ax, 81. determinant, 82. scatter

83. ges_____te to communicate with friends
v. to make gestures, especially with one's hands or arms, while speaking or expressing oneself; to convey emotions or thoughts using dramatic or vigorous gestures
84. im_____e painting styles
v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
85. de___e a literary plot
v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
86. l___e foreign investment
v. to tempt or persuade someone to do something
87. snow sh___l
n. a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
88. la_____sh under illness
v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time
89. grow ar_____nt
adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
90. te_____ry technology
n. the process of collecting and transmitting data from remote or inaccessible sources using wireless or other communication means, usually for monitoring or control purposes
91. ta__t the atmosphere worldwide
v. to damage or spoil the quality or integrity of something, particularly through association with a negative or undesirable influence or element

ANSWERS: 83. gesticulate, 84. imitate, 85. devise, 86. lure, 87. shovel, 88. languish, 89. arrogant, 90. telemetry, 91. taint

92. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
93. a ba__l of confusion *n.* a loud noise, typically referring to the confusion of many voices talking at once, derived from the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, in which God caused confusion among people by making them speak different languages
94. pr____r as a trading hub *v.* to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
95. dis____ul remark *adj.* unpleasant or offensive to the sense of taste
96. moralize a fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
97. ma__e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
98. dis____ul to her *adj.* unpleasant or offensive to the sense of taste
99. political hu____s *n.* excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
100. po__e member *n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
101. sa____ah region *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

ANSWERS: 92. trait, 93. babel, 94. prosper, 95. distasteful, 96. fable, 97. matte, 98. distasteful, 99. hubris, 100. posse, 101. savannah

102. play the a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
103. hu___s in business *n.* excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
104. ine_____le decline *adj.* describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect
105. jungle a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
106. oc_____c climate *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the ocean or its inhabitants; having to do with the vast expanse of saltwater that covers most of the Earth's surface
107. the institute of arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
108. an ax in the toolbox *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
109. ca_____al choir *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
110. fl__es of snow *n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

ANSWERS: 102. ape, 103. hubris, 104. inexorable, 105. ape, 106. oceanic, 107. archaeology, 108. ax, 109. cathedral, 110. flake

111. it be_____es the politician to act ethically *v.* to be necessary, proper, or advantageous for someone to do something; to be fitting or appropriate in a particular situation
112. ine_____le force *adj.* describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect
113. get into a f__s *n.* a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
114. an ar_____nt attitude *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
115. aud_____um annex *n.* a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
116. prehistoric arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

ANSWERS: 111. behoove, 112. inexorable, 113. fuss, 114. arrogant, 115. auditorium, 116. archaeology

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The satellite sends _____ data back to Earth to help scientists study the atmosphere.
 - n.* the process of collecting and transmitting data from remote or inaccessible sources using wireless or other communication means, usually for monitoring or control purposes
2. The construction workers used a power _____ to dig the foundation for the building.
 - n.* a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
3. The _____ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.
 - n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
4. The scandal will _____ his reputation for years to come.
 - v.* to damage or spoil the quality or integrity of something, particularly through association with a negative or undesirable influence or element
5. His vain _____ made it difficult for him to work well with others.
 - n.* an excessively high opinion of oneself; self-importance
6. The artwork was criticized for its _____ theme that undermined religious beliefs.
 - adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

ANSWERS: 1. telemetry, 2. shovel, 3. mushroom, 4. taint, 5. conceit, 6. subversive

7. The cost of the antique vase is three _____.
- n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
8. The body of his car has a _____ finish.
- adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
9. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
- n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
10. The athlete's _____ resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.
- n.* excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
11. The scientist studied the behavior of _____ in the wild.
- n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
12. The _____ seating was filled with people waiting for the concert to begin.
- n.* a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
13. My friends and I formed a _____ to search for the lost hiker.
- n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
14. She found a paint _____ on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.
- n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

ANSWERS: 7. guineas, 8. matte, 9. ancestor, 10. hubris, 11. apes, 12. auditorium, 13. posse, 14. flake

15. The hunter's approach _____ the geese.

v. to cause to separate and go in different directions

16. He wanted to _____ his brand logo on the product.

v. to make a mark or impression on a surface; to leave a lasting impression or influence on someone or something; (noun) a mark or impression made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface; a distinctive feature or characteristic that is left by something or someone

17. The _____ between the two buildings carried water and electricity.

n. a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts

18. He continues to _____ in prison.

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time

19. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

20. They had to _____ a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

21. The food served at the dinner party could have been more appealing and _____.

adj. unpleasant or offensive to the sense of taste

22. There was a _____ about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.

n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

ANSWERS: 15. scattered, 16. imprint, 17. conduit, 18. languish, 19. hopeless, 20. devise, 21. distasteful, 22. fuss

23. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.
- v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
24. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
- n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
25. After a heated argument during the football match, a _____ broke out between two fans.
- n.* a short, confused fight or struggle, usually involving a small number of people; a disorderly or noisy quarrel or altercation
26. The house was infested with _____ and required extensive repairs.
- n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
27. The city _____ with activity as people rushed to work.
- v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
28. In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known _____.
- n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
29. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.
- adj.* no longer in existence
30. The _____ stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.
- n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area

ANSWERS: 23. imitated, 24. anthropology, 25. scuffle, 26. termites, 27. bustled, 28. fable, 29. extinct, 30. cathedral's

31. If you _____ in the decision for too long, the opportunity might pass you by.
- v. to waste time or linger aimlessly or idly; to engage in playful or flirtatious behavior without serious intent; to delay or procrastinate on something that requires attention or action
32. I accidentally _____ on a confidential meeting last week.
- v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
33. The teacher asked me to rub out the _____.
- n. a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
34. It would _____ you to double-check your work before submitting it.
- v. to be necessary, proper, or advantageous for someone to do something; to be fitting or appropriate in a particular situation
35. The animal was _____ in a small cage.
- v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
36. As tectonic plates _____ new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.
- v. to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
37. The man _____ her on the street and asked for money.
- v. to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently
38. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
- n. a particular feature of your nature

ANSWERS: 31. dally, 32. eavesdropped, 33. blackboard, 34. behoove, 35. confined, 36. diverge, 37. accosted, 38. traits

39. She teaches _____ at the local university.
- n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
40. The birds live in tropical forests, _____ and arid semi-desert environments.
- n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
41. The speaker _____ wildly as they spoke, emphasizing their words.
- v.* to make gestures, especially with one's hands or arms, while speaking or expressing oneself; to convey emotions or thoughts using dramatic or vigorous gestures
42. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
43. He used an ___ to chop the firewood for the campfire.
- n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
44. He was so _____ that he thought he was always right.
- adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
45. The salesperson used a special offer to ____ customers into buying the product.
- v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
46. The _____ waves crashed against the shore, creating a mesmerizing sight.
- adj.* relating to or characteristic of the ocean or its inhabitants; having to do with the vast expanse of saltwater that covers most of the Earth's surface

ANSWERS: 39. archaeology, 40. savannahs, 41. gesticulated, 42. confused, 43. ax, 44. arrogant, 45. lure, 46. oceanic

47. I need to _____ the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.
- v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
48. The different species can _____ in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.
- v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
49. The classroom was a _____ of excitement as the students prepared for their field trip.
- n.* a loud noise, typically referring to the confusion of many voices talking at once, derived from the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, in which God caused confusion among people by making them speak different languages
50. The city _____ with traffic on holiday.
- v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
51. His _____ determination to succeed made him a force to be reckoned with.
- adj.* describing a process or situation that is impossible to stop, prevent, or change; relentless, unyielding, or unstoppable in force or effect
52. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
53. The competitor tried to _____ the reigning champion's title.
- v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

ANSWERS: 47. rewire, 48. coexist, 49. babel, 50. teems, 51. inexorable, 52. pretensions, 53. usurp

54. A power outage _____ after the storm knocked out the electricity.
- v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
55. With careful planning and hard work, she was able to _____ in her new business venture.
- v. to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
56. Many zoos have _____ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.
- n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
57. 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
58. He was _____ many times with scissors.
- v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

ANSWERS: 54. ensued, 55. prosper, 56. chimpanzee, 57. determinant, 58. stabbed