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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Allan Savory: How to fight desertification and reverse climate change | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

hectare

n. a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters

(1) **hectare** land, (2) housing per **hectare**

The farm spans over 100 **hectares** of land.

soaked

adj. completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid

synonym: drenched, saturated, wet

(1) **soaked** clothes, (2) **soaked** sponge

The hiker's boots were **soaked** from walking through the stream.

evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

- arid** *adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
synonym : dry, parched, barren
(1) **arid** terrain, (2) semi- **arid** zone
The desert is known for its **arid** climate and lack of rainfall.
- grassland** *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
synonym : meadow, plain, savanna
(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**
Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.
- algae** *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
(1) **algae** biofuel, (2) blue **algae**
Algae has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.
- evaporation** *n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources
synonym : vaporization, dehydration, desiccation
(1) **evaporation** cooling, (2) slow **evaporation**
The formation of clouds is facilitated by the process of **evaporation** and condensation
- graze** *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
synonym : nibble, feed, scrape
(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder
The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.
- 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.

laureate

n. a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**

The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.

caddy

n. a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs

synonym: container, carrier, holder

(1) golf **caddy**, (2) **caddy** spoon

The tea **caddy** was a beautiful antique with intricate designs carved into the wood.

dusty

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

synonym: stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

ecologist

n. a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior

synonym: conservationist, naturalist

(1) behavioral **ecologist**, (2) forestry **ecologist**

The forestry **ecologist** studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.

marvelous

adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

synonym : wonderful, amazing, superb

(1) **marvelous** performance, (2) **marvelous** power

The view from the top of the mountain was **marvelous**.

drumbeat

n. a regular, steady beat or rhythm, often used to accompany music or to mark the passage of time

synonym : rhythm, cadence, pulse

(1) steady **drumbeat**, (2) thundering **drumbeat**

The ceremonial **drumbeat** echoed through the temple during the ritual.

deteriorate

v. to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate

synonym : decline, degenerate, regress

(1) **deteriorate** at a slow pace, (2) **deteriorate** condition

The patient's health **deteriorated** rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.

dynamite

n. a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

synonym : explosives, blasting powder, TNT

(1) **dynamite-powered** engine, (2) **dynamite** fishing

The sound of the **dynamite** explosion could be heard for miles.

blunder

n. mistake; the act of making a foolish error

synonym : mistake, error, goof

(1) a capital **blunder**, (2) make a **blunder** in my work

The CEO's **blunder** in the meeting cost the company millions.

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.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life
He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

midday

n. noon; twelve o'clock in the middle of the day

synonym: noon, meridian, noontime

(1) **midday** meal, (2) **midday** glare of the sun
We usually have a lunch meeting at **midday**.

ferocious

adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel

synonym: savage, fierce, brutal

(1) **ferocious** beast, (2) **ferocious** predator
The lion's **ferocious** roar could be heard from miles away.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

dung

n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

synonym: excrement, droppings, manure

(1) ball of **dung**, (2) **dung** the land

You can see the horse **dung** on the country road.

trample

v. to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury

synonym: tread, stomp, crush

(1) **trample** down his feelings, (2) **trample** on the rights

The plants in this garden are precious, so you must not **trample** them.

smother

v. to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion

synonym: smother, suffocate, stifle

(1) **smother** flames, (2) **smother** a sneeze

She tried to **smother** her fears and doubts with positive affirmations.

pollutant

n. a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil

synonym: contaminant, toxic substance

(1) noxious **pollutant**, (2) water **pollutant**

The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant **pollutant** in the area.

climatology

n. the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects

synonym: climate science, meteorology

(1) **climatology** research, (2) marine **climatology**

Climatology data shows that the Arctic has been warming faster than other regions of the world.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym: impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble

That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments
He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

foreground

n. the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer

(1) **foreground** segmentation, (2) **foreground** galaxy
A happy group of friends occupies the **foreground** of the picture.

mulch

n. a protective covering, often made of organic materials such as wood chips, straw, or leaves, applied to the soil around plants to suppress weed growth, retain moisture, and provide insulation

synonym : compost, ground cover, bedding

(1) **mulch** from the vegetation, (2) organic **mulch**
The landscaper recommended a layer of rubber **mulch** for the children's playground as it provides cushioning and minimizes injuries from falls.

vilify

v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them

synonym : defame, slander, malign

(1) **vilify** the press, (2) publicly **vilify**
The media has been **vilifying** the politician for his controversial statements.

human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

synonym : artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst **human-made** disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

synonym: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life

They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

shrub

n. a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil

synonym: bush, hedge, fern

(1) tree and **shrubs**, (2) small **shrub**

These are **shrubs** with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.

giraffe

n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves

synonym: gazelle, okapi, camelopard

(1) **giraffe** pattern, (2) **giraffe** exhibit

The **giraffe's** long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.

erode

v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

synonym: wear away, deteriorate, corrode

(1) **erode** coast, (2) **erode** trust

The ongoing budget cuts have **eroded** the quality of education in many schools.

centimeter

n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

(1) **centimeter** measurement, (2) thirty **centimeters** tall

The room was only one **centimeter** wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.

grandchild

n. a child of someone's son or daughter

synonym : offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

gully

n. deep water-cut trench, especially after a prolonged downpour

synonym : gorge, canyon, valley

(1) street **gully**, (2) **gully** erosion

In the mist, the vast **gully** was awe-inspiring.

savory

adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

synonym : delicious, tasty, appetizing

(1) **savory** dish, (2) a **savory** omelet

The **savory** aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

reclamation

n. the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away

synonym : recovery, reutilization, restoration

(1) **reclamation** district, (2) coastal **reclamation**

The **reclamation** of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.

treble

n. the highest vocal or instrumental register, typically performed by a woman or child; a high-pitched sound or tone; three times as much of something or threefold

synonym : soprano, triple, triad

(1) **treble** clef, (2) **treble** booster

The soprano singer hit a piercing **treble** note during the performance.

sigmoid

adj. relating to or shaped like the letter "S"

synonym : curved, bent, twisted

(1) **sigmoid** curve, (2) **sigmoid** artery

The doctor examined the **sigmoid** colon to check for any abnormalities.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. semi-a__d zone *adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
2. the worst hum_____de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
3. tree and sh__bs *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
4. a__d terrain *adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
5. for_____nd galaxy *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
6. de___e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
7. rec_____on district *n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
8. ma_____us power *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
9. thundering dr_____at *n.* a regular, steady beat or rhythm, often used to accompany music or to mark the passage of time
10. ball of d__g *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

ANSWERS: 1. arid, 2. human-made, 3. shrub, 4. arid, 5. foreground, 6. devote, 7. reclamation, 8. marvelous, 9. drumbeat, 10. dung

11. atmospheric me____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
12. gi____e pattern *n.* a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
13. cen_____er measurement *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
14. organic mu__h *n.* a protective covering, often made of organic materials such as wood chips, straw, or leaves, applied to the soil around plants to suppress weed growth, retain moisture, and provide insulation
15. steady dr____at *n.* a regular, steady beat or rhythm, often used to accompany music or to mark the passage of time
16. 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
17. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
18. eva_____on cooling *n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources

ANSWERS: 11. methane, 12. giraffe, 13. centimeter, 14. mulch, 15. drumbeat, 16. determinant, 17. astonishing, 18. evaporation

19. blue al__e *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
20. cli____gy research *n.* the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
21. mi___y meal *n.* noon; twelve o'clock in the middle of the day
22. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
23. er__e coast *v.* to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
24. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
25. an unt____le coincidence *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
26. du__y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
27. slow eva____on *n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources
28. water po____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil

ANSWERS: 19. algae, 20. climatology, 21. midday, 22. predator, 23. erode, 24. mimic, 25. unthinkable, 26. dusty, 27. evaporation, 28. pollutant

29. endangered gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
30. hum_____de climate change *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
31. tr_____e down his feelings *v.* to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury
32. forestry ec_____st *n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
33. golf ca__y *n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs
34. det_____te condition *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
35. fe_____us predator *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
36. un_____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
37. publicly vi____y *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them
38. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 29. grassland, 30. human-made, 31. trample, 32. ecologist, 33. caddy, 34. deteriorate, 35. ferocious, 36. uncover, 37. vilify, 38. determinant

39. gra_____ld development *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
40. he_____e land *n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
41. d__g the land *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
42. street gu__y *n.* deep water-cut trench, especially after a prolonged downpour
43. small sh__b *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
44. dy_____te fishing *n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes
45. ev_____te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
46. vast gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
47. a capital bl_____r *n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
48. tr___e booster *n.* the highest vocal or instrumental register, typically performed by a woman or child; a high-pitched sound or tone; three times as much of something or threefold

ANSWERS: 39. grandchild, 40. hectare, 41. dung, 42. gully, 43. shrub, 44. dynamite, 45. evaporate, 46. grassland, 47. blunder, 48. treble

49. Oscar la____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
50. tr____e on the rights *v.* to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury
51. so____d clothes *adj.* completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid
52. si____d artery *adj.* relating to or shaped like the letter "S"
53. noxious po____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
54. fe____us beast *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
55. er__e trust *v.* to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
56. make a bl____r in my work *n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
57. marine cli____gy *n.* the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
58. sexual pr____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

ANSWERS: 49. laureate, 50. trample, 51. soaked, 52. sigmoid, 53. pollutant, 54. ferocious, 55. erode, 56. blunder, 57. climatology, 58. predator

59. for_____nd segmentation *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
60. ca__y spoon *n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs
61. reduce me_____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
62. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
63. sm_____r a sneeze *v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion
64. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
65. re_____nt our life *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
66. behavioral ec_____st *n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
67. gi_____e exhibit *n.* a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
68. re_____nt local dishes *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

ANSWERS: 59. foreground, 60. caddy, 61. methane, 62. astonishing, 63. smother, 64. unthinkable, 65. reinvent, 66. ecologist, 67. giraffe, 68. reinvent

69. det _____te at a slow pace *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
70. mi ___y glare of the sun *n.* noon; twelve o'clock in the middle of the day
71. ma _____us performance *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
72. gu ___y erosion *n.* deep water-cut trench, especially after a prolonged downpour
73. tr ___e clef *n.* the highest vocal or instrumental register, typically performed by a woman or child; a high-pitched sound or tone; three times as much of something or threefold
74. coastal rec _____on *n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
75. al ___e biofuel *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
76. housing per he _____e *n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
77. mu ___h from the vegetation *n.* a protective covering, often made of organic materials such as wood chips, straw, or leaves, applied to the soil around plants to suppress weed growth, retain moisture, and provide insulation
78. sm _____r flames *v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion

ANSWERS: 69. deteriorate, 70. midday, 71. marvelous, 72. gully, 73. treble, 74. reclamation, 75. algae, 76. hectare, 77. mulch, 78. smother

79. si____d curve *adj.* relating to or shaped like the letter "S"
80. de___e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
81. gr__e the left shoulder *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
82. ev_____te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
83. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
84. thirty cen_____ers tall *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
85. sa___y dish *adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
86. du__y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
87. so___d sponge *adj.* completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid
88. vi___y the press *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them
89. poet la_____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

ANSWERS: 79. sigmoid, 80. devote, 81. graze, 82. evaporate, 83. grandchild, 84. centimeter, 85. savory, 86. dusty, 87. soaked, 88. vilify, 89. laureate

90. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
91. un____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
92. turn cattle out to gr__e *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
93. a sa___y omelet *adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
94. dy____te-powered engine *n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

ANSWERS: 90. mimic, 91. uncover, 92. graze, 93. savory, 94. dynamite

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
2. The soprano singer hit a piercing _____ note during the performance.
n. the highest vocal or instrumental register, typically performed by a woman or child; a high-pitched sound or tone; three times as much of something or threefold
3. The _____ aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.
adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
4. The formation of clouds is facilitated by the process of _____ and condensation
n. the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources
5. The Nobel _____ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
n. a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
6. _____ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.
n. A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
7. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of _____ debris.
adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

ANSWERS: 1. human-made, 2. treble, 3. savory, 4. evaporation, 5. laureate, 6. Algae, 7. dusty

8. The forestry _____ studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.
- n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
9. The ceremonial _____ echoed through the temple during the ritual.
- n.* a regular, steady beat or rhythm, often used to accompany music or to mark the passage of time
10. The sound of the _____ explosion could be heard for miles.
- n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes
11. The CEO's _____ in the meeting cost the company millions.
- n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
12. In the mist, the vast _____ was awe-inspiring.
- n.* deep water-cut trench, especially after a prolonged downpour
13. A happy group of friends occupies the _____ of the picture.
- n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
14. The view from the top of the mountain was _____.
- adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
15. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.
- adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

ANSWERS: 8. ecologist, 9. drumbeat, 10. dynamite, 11. blunder, 12. gully, 13. foreground, 14. marvelous, 15. astonishing

16. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
17. The room was only one _____ wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.
n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
18. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
19. They have tried to _____ their grocery stores.
v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
20. The sun will _____ the mist.
v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
21. Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale _____ in many parts of the world.
n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
22. The media has been _____ the politician for his controversial statements.
v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them
23. The doctor examined the _____ colon to check for any abnormalities.
adj. relating to or shaped like the letter "S"

ANSWERS: 16. devoted, 17. centimeter, 18. predator's, 19. reinvent, 20. evaporate, 21. grasslands, 22. vilifying, 23. sigmoid

24. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
- v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
25. The _____ of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.
- n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
26. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
27. She tried to _____ her fears and doubts with positive affirmations.
- v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion
28. The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant _____ in the area.
- n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
29. The hiker's boots were _____ from walking through the stream.
- adj.* completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid
30. The plants in this garden are precious, so you must not _____ them.
- v.* to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury
31. 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

ANSWERS: 24. uncovered, 25. reclamation, 26. mimic, 27. smother, 28. pollutant, 29. soaked, 30. trample, 31. determinant

32. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
n. a child of someone's son or daughter
33. The sheep _____ on the green grass in the meadow.
v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
34. _____ data shows that the Arctic has been warming faster than other regions of the world.
n. the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
35. The lion's _____ roar could be heard from miles away.
adj. very fierce, savage, or cruel
36. The ongoing budget cuts have _____ the quality of education in many schools.
v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
37. These are _____ with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.
n. a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
38. The _____ long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.
n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
39. We usually have a lunch meeting at _____.
n. noon; twelve o'clock in the middle of the day

ANSWERS: 32. grandchild, 33. graze, 34. Climatology, 35. ferocious, 36. eroded, 37. shrubs, 38. giraffe's, 39. midday

40. The landscaper recommended a layer of rubber _____ for the children's playground as it provides cushioning and minimizes injuries from falls.
- n.* a protective covering, often made of organic materials such as wood chips, straw, or leaves, applied to the soil around plants to suppress weed growth, retain moisture, and provide insulation
41. 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
42. The tea _____ was a beautiful antique with intricate designs carved into the wood.
- n.* a container or carrier for holding and transporting small items, such as tea or golf clubs
43. The patient's health _____ rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.
- v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
44. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.
- adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
45. The farm spans over 100 _____ of land.
- n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
46. You can see the horse _____ on the country road.
- n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
47. The desert is known for its _____ climate and lack of rainfall.
- adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality

ANSWERS: 40. mulch, 41. methane, 42. caddy, 43. deteriorated, 44. unthinkable, 45. hectares, 46. dung, 47. arid

ANSWERS: