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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Cameron Paterson: The infamous and ingenious Ho Chi Minh Trail | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

exhaustion

n. the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength

synonym: fatigue, weariness, tiredness

(1) **exhaustion** of energy, (2) emotional **exhaustion**

The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental **exhaustion**.

stamina

n. the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively

synonym: endurance, staying power, resilience

(1) **stamina** training, (2) lose **stamina**

The athlete's **stamina** was tested during the grueling triathlon.

blossom

n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

synonym: flower, bloom, bud

(1) apple **blossom**, (2) **blossom** garden

The cherry **blossom** trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

centerpiece

n. the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table

synonym : highlight, focal point, heart

(1) the **centerpiece** of the meal, (2) **centerpiece** proposal
His writing activities are the **centerpiece** of his life.

supple

adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas

synonym : flexible, pliable, bendable

(1) **supple** muscles, (2) **supple** leather

The ballerina's **supple** movements left the audience mesmerized.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

ingenuity

n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

synonym : creativity, invention, originality

(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**
Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

detour

n. a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action

synonym : diversion, deviation, bypass

(1) **detour** sign, (2) unnecessary **detour**

We had to take a **detour because** of the road construction ahead.

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.

infiltrate

v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

synonym : penetrate, sneak in, invade

(1) **infiltrate** the bloodstream, (2) **infiltrate** a community

The spy was able to **infiltrate** the enemy's headquarters undetected.

rout

n. a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat

synonym : defeat, debacle, disaster

(1) **rout** march, (2) cricket team's **rout**

The football team suffered a humiliating **rout** in the championship game.

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.

crossroad

n. a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences

synonym : intersection, junction, fork

(1) critical **crossroad**, (2) major **crossroad**

I'm at a career **crossroads** and unsure which path to take.

cadre

n. a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement

synonym : core group, leadership, elite

(1) elite **cadre**, (2) **cadre** of leaders

The **cadre** of experienced soldiers led the attack.

peasant

n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

synonym : farmer, laborer, rustic

(1) **peasant** class, (2) exploited **peasant**

Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a **peasant**, but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.

pajama

n. a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging

synonym : nightgown, nightdress

(1) care **pajama**, (2) **pajama** pants

My little sister loves to have **pajama** parties with her friends on the weekends.

checkered

adj. marked by changes, variations, or contrasts; having a pattern of alternating colors or squares like a checkerboard; referring to a life or history with ups and downs or a mix of positive and negative experiences

synonym : variegated, diverse, patterned

(1) **checkered** flag, (2) **checkered** reputation

The older man told us about his **checkered** youth, filled with good and bad decisions.

ration

n. a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems

synonym : quota, allowance, allocation

(1) food **ration**, (2) fuel **ration**

During the war, families were given a monthly **ration** of essential goods to ensure everyone had access to basic necessities.

intestine

n. a long, tube-like organ in the digestive system that is responsible for absorbing nutrients from food and eliminating waste products

synonym : gut, bowel, tract

(1) large **intestine**, (2) **intestine** wall

The small **intestine** is responsible for absorbing most of the nutrients from food.

ameba

n. a single-celled organism that typically has the shape of a small, round blob and moves by means of temporary projections called pseudopodia

synonym : protozoan, single-celled organism, unicellular organism

(1) **ameba** culture, (2) **ameba** movement

The pathogenetic **ameba** moved by extending and retracting its pseudopodia.

dysentery

n. a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)

(1) amoebic **dysentery**, (2) **dysentery** epidemic

In some communities of the country, **dysentery** was the leading cause of death.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym : famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death
If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

invariably

adv. in every case or on every occasion; without exception
synonym: consistently, always, uniformly

(1) **invariably** polite, (2) **invariably** correct
She **invariably** arrived at the office early each day.

boredom

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

synonym: ennui, tedium, monotony

(1) **boredom** relief, (2) chronic **boredom**
The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off **boredom**.

homesick

adj. feeling sad or nostalgic for one's home, family, or familiar surroundings, especially when away from them for a significant length of time

synonym: nostalgic, longing, yearning

(1) suffer from **homesick**, (2) **homesick** for home
The military personnel stationed overseas often feel **homesick** for their loved ones.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**
He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

villager

n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community

synonym: resident, inhabitant, countryperson

(1) **villager** community, (2) local **villager**
The rural **villagers** were saddened by the destruction of their

homes in the natural disaster.

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.

watchman

n. a person who guards or keeps watch over a particular place, property, or group of people, often during the night; a person who is on the lookout for potential dangers or threats

synonym : guard, sentinel, keeper

(1) **watchman** duty, (2) night **watchman**

The **watchman's** whistle blew, signaling the start of the night shift.

broth

n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

synonym : bouillon, consomme, soup

(1) chicken **broth**, (2) remains of **broth**

I always add a bit of **broth** to my soup to give it more flavor.

deception

n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

synonym : fraud, deceit, trickery

(1) **deception** tactics, (2) **deception** in advertising

The politician was accused of **deception** for making false promises during his campaign.

mountainside

n. the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity

synonym : slope, hillside, incline

(1) climb a **mountainside**, (2) enjoy the view from the **mountainside**

The hiker slipped and fell down the **mountainside**, injuring herself.

pervade

v. to spread throughout something; to permeate
synonym: permeate, penetrate, suffuse

(1) **pervade** society, (2) **pervade** an atmosphere

The smell of baking bread **pervaded** the kitchen.

seep

v. to flow or leak slowly and gradually through small openings or spaces; to ooze or trickle out gradually

synonym: leak, ooze, trickle

(1) **seep** cool and moist air, (2) **seep** into paper

The rain began to **seep** through the roof, causing damage to the walls and floors.

nook

n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

synonym: niche, corner, alcove

(1) every **nook** and cranny, (2) breakfast **nook**

The kitchen **nook** was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.

cranny

n. a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

synonym: crevice, nook, niche

(1) a **cranny** in the corner, (2) look in every nook and **cranny**

The mouse squeezed into the tiniest **cranny** of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

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.

linchpin

n. a person or thing that is vital or essential to the success or stability of a system or organization; something that holds various elements together

synonym : pivot, keystone, cornerstone

(1) strategic **linchpin**, (2) organizational **linchpin**

The **linchpin** of our project is the efficient collaboration between the marketing and design teams.

Session 2: Spelling

1. local vi____er
n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
2. apple bl____m
n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
3. su____e leather
adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
4. issue a w__t
n. a written legal order or command
5. ho____ck for home
adj. feeling sad or nostalgic for one's home, family, or familiar surroundings, especially when away from them for a significant length of time
6. organizational li____in
n. a person or thing that is vital or essential to the success or stability of a system or organization; something that holds various elements together
7. inv____ly correct
adv. in every case or on every occasion; without exception
8. every n__k and cranny
n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

ANSWERS: 1. villager, 2. blossom, 3. supple, 4. writ, 5. homesick, 6. linchpin, 7. invariably, 8. nook

9. breakfast n__k *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
10. inf_____te a community *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
11. fuel ra___n *n.* a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems
12. cricket team's r__t *n.* a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
13. 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
14. pe_____e an atmosphere *v.* to spread throughout something; to permeate
15. de_____on in advertising *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
16. exploited pe_____t *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

ANSWERS: 9. nook, 10. infiltrate, 11. ration, 12. rout, 13. dusty, 14. pervade, 15. deception, 16. peasant

17. ca__e of leaders *n.* a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement
18. the cen_____ce of the meal *n.* the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table
19. fe_____us predator *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
20. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
21. abound in in_____ty *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
22. vi_____er community *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
23. pe_____e society *v.* to spread throughout something; to permeate
24. strategic li_____in *n.* a person or thing that is vital or essential to the success or stability of a system or organization; something that holds various elements together
25. elite ca__e *n.* a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement
26. de_____on tactics *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
27. de___r sign *n.* a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action

ANSWERS: 17. cadre, 18. centerpiece, 19. ferocious, 20. troop, 21. ingenuity, 22. villager, 23. pervade, 24. linchpin, 25. cadre, 26. deception, 27. detour

28. the members of a military tr__p *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
29. in_____ne wall *n.* a long, tube-like organ in the digestive system that is responsible for absorbing nutrients from food and eliminating waste products
30. 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
31. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
32. chicken br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
33. amoebic dy_____ry *n.* a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
34. s__p cool and moist air *v.* to flow or leak slowly and gradually through small openings or spaces; to ooze or trickle out gradually
35. st_____a training *n.* the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively
36. chronic bo_____m *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

ANSWERS: 28. troop, 29. intestine, 30. determinant, 31. improvisation, 32. broth, 33. dysentery, 34. seep, 35. stamina, 36. boredom

37. critical cr_____ad *n.* a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences
38. wa_____an duty *n.* a person who guards or keeps watch over a particular place, property, or group of people, often during the night; a person who is on the lookout for potential dangers or threats
39. unnecessary de____r *n.* a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action
40. det_____te condition *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
41. am__a movement *n.* a single-celled organism that typically has the shape of a small, round blob and moves by means of temporary projections called pseudopodia
42. su____e muscles *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
43. dy_____ry epidemic *n.* a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
44. remains of br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
45. night wa_____an *n.* a person who guards or keeps watch over a particular place, property, or group of people, often during the night; a person who is on the lookout for potential dangers or threats

ANSWERS: 37. crossroad, 38. watchman, 39. detour, 40. deteriorate, 41. ameba, 42. supple, 43. dysentery, 44. broth, 45. watchman

46. s__p into paper *v.* to flow or leak slowly and gradually through small openings or spaces; to ooze or trickle out gradually
47. bl_____m garden *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
48. ch_____ed flag *adj.* marked by changes, variations, or contrasts; having a pattern of alternating colors or squares like a checkerboard; referring to a life or history with ups and downs or a mix of positive and negative experiences
49. look in every nook and cr___y *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
50. a cr___y in the corner *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
51. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
52. r__t march *n.* a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
53. exh_____on of energy *n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
54. food ra___n *n.* a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems

ANSWERS: 46. seep, 47. blossom, 48. checkered, 49. cranny, 50. cranny, 51. starve, 52. rout, 53. exhaustion, 54. ration

55. 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
56. cen_____ce proposal *n.* the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table
57. fe_____us beast *adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
58. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
59. inv_____ly polite *adv.* in every case or on every occasion; without exception
60. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
61. enjoy the view from the mou_____ide *n.* the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity
62. lose st_____a *n.* the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively
63. ch_____ed reputation *adj.* marked by changes, variations, or contrasts; having a pattern of alternating colors or squares like a checkerboard; referring to a life or history with ups and downs or a mix of positive and negative experiences

ANSWERS: 55. dusty, 56. centerpiece, 57. ferocious, 58. determinant, 59. invariably, 60. improvisation, 61. mountainside, 62. stamina, 63. checkered

64. suffer from ho____ck *adj.* feeling sad or nostalgic for one's home, family, or familiar surroundings, especially when away from them for a significant length of time
65. pe____t class *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
66. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
67. emotional exh_____on *n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
68. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
69. climb a mou_____ide *n.* the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity
70. care pa___a *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
71. large in_____ne *n.* a long, tube-like organ in the digestive system that is responsible for absorbing nutrients from food and eliminating waste products
72. det_____te at a slow pace *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
73. bo____m relief *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

ANSWERS: 64. homesick, 65. peasant, 66. starve, 67. exhaustion, 68. writ, 69. mountainside, 70. pajama, 71. intestine, 72. deteriorate, 73. boredom

74. major cr_____ad *n.* a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences
75. pa___a pants *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
76. inf_____te the bloodstream *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
77. am___a culture *n.* a single-celled organism that typically has the shape of a small, round blob and moves by means of temporary projections called pseudopodia
78. the infinite in_____ty of man *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

ANSWERS: 74. crossroad, 75. pajama, 76. infiltrate, 77. ameba, 78. ingenuity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

2. The _____ of our project is the efficient collaboration between the marketing and design teams.
n. a person or thing that is vital or essential to the success or stability of a system or organization; something that holds various elements together

3. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

4. The small _____ is responsible for absorbing most of the nutrients from food.
n. a long, tube-like organ in the digestive system that is responsible for absorbing nutrients from food and eliminating waste products

5. The politician was accused of _____ for making false promises during his campaign.
n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

6. The rural _____ were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community

ANSWERS: 1. troop, 2. linchpin, 3. improvisation, 4. intestine, 5. deception, 6. villagers

7. The cherry _____ trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.
- n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
8. I always add a bit of _____ to my soup to give it more flavor.
- n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
9. The patient's health _____ rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.
- v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
10. The ballerina's _____ movements left the audience mesmerized.
- adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
11. My little sister loves to have _____ parties with her friends on the weekends.
- n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
12. The lion's _____ roar could be heard from miles away.
- adj.* very fierce, savage, or cruel
13. The older man told us about his _____ youth, filled with good and bad decisions.
- adj.* marked by changes, variations, or contrasts; having a pattern of alternating colors or squares like a checkerboard; referring to a life or history with ups and downs or a mix of positive and negative experiences

ANSWERS: 7. blossom, 8. broth, 9. deteriorated, 10. supple, 11. pajama, 12. ferocious, 13. checkered

14. Creativity and _____ are often brought about by extreme concentration.
n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
15. We had to take a _____ of the road construction ahead.
n. a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action
16. The kitchen _____ was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.
n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
17. The hiker slipped and fell down the _____ injuring herself.
n. the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity
18. 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
19. The pathogenetic _____ moved by extending and retracting its pseudopodia.
n. a single-celled organism that typically has the shape of a small, round blob and moves by means of temporary projections called pseudopodia
20. The football team suffered a humiliating _____ in the championship game.
n. a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
21. The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental _____.
n. the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength

ANSWERS: 14. ingenuity, 15. detour because, 16. nook, 17. mountainside, 18. dusty, 19. ameba, 20. rout, 21. exhaustion

22. 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
23. The rain began to _____ through the roof, causing damage to the walls and floors.
- v.* to flow or leak slowly and gradually through small openings or spaces; to ooze or trickle out gradually
24. The spy was able to _____ the enemy's headquarters undetected.
- v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
25. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
- n.* a written legal order or command
26. I'm at a career _____ and unsure which path to take.
- n.* a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences
27. Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a _____ but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.
- n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
28. The _____ whistle blew, signaling the start of the night shift.
- n.* a person who guards or keeps watch over a particular place, property, or group of people, often during the night; a person who is on the lookout for potential dangers or threats

ANSWERS: 22. determinant, 23. seep, 24. infiltrate, 25. writ, 26. crossroads, 27. peasant, 28. watchman's

29. She _____ arrived at the office early each day.

adv. in every case or on every occasion; without exception

30. The _____ of experienced soldiers led the attack.

n. a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement

31. The military personnel stationed overseas often feel _____ for their loved ones.

adj. feeling sad or nostalgic for one's home, family, or familiar surroundings, especially when away from them for a significant length of time

32. The athlete's _____ was tested during the grueling triathlon.

n. the physical or mental endurance and strength needed to sustain prolonged effort or activity; the ability to withstand fatigue, stress, or other challenges and continue functioning effectively

33. The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off _____.

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

34. The mouse squeezed into the tiniest _____ of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

n. a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

35. His writing activities are the _____ of his life.

n. the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table

36. The smell of baking bread _____ the kitchen.

v. to spread throughout something; to permeate

ANSWERS: 29. invariably, 30. cadre, 31. homesick, 32. stamina, 33. boredom, 34. cranny, 35. centerpiece, 36. pervaded

37. During the war, families were given a monthly _____ of essential goods to ensure everyone had access to basic necessities.
- n.* a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems
38. In some communities of the country, _____ was the leading cause of death.
- n.* a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
39. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.
- v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 37. ration, 38. dysentery, 39. starve