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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christoph Adami: Finding life we can't imagine | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

quark

n. a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

(1) **quark** physics, (2) the antiparticle of a **quark**

The Big Bang theory states that **quark-gluon** plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.

gluon

n. a subatomic particle that binds quarks together in the nucleus of an atom, thus mediating the strong nuclear force

synonym: subatomic particle, nuclear force mediator

(1) **gluon** emission, (2) **gluon** interaction

The strong force, mediated by **gluons**, binds protons and neutrons in the atomic nucleus.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

propulsion

n. the act or process of propelling or driving something forward, often using a motor, engine, or other mechanical means

synonym: propelling, driving, actuation

(1) **propulsion** technology, (2) nuclear **propulsion**

The spacecraft's **propulsion** system helped it travel through space.

biosignature

n. distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life

synonym: indicators, signs, evidence

(1) **biosignatures** detection, (2) **biosignatures** discovery

Scientists are searching for **biosignatures** on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

Martian

adj. of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants

(1) **Martian** geography, (2) **Martian** surface

There is very little water in the **Martian** atmosphere.

meteorite

n. a solid object originating in outer space that reaches the Earth's surface without completely vaporizing in the atmosphere; a rock that has fallen from space

synonym: meteor, shooting star, asteroid

(1) **meteorite** impact, (2) **meteorite** shower

The **meteorite** fragments were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis.

convoluted

adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
synonym : intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language

James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

inane

adj. lacking significance, meaning, or substance; silly or frivolous in nature; lacking intelligence or understanding
synonym : silly, senseless, foolish

(1) **inane** conversation, (2) **inane** remark

The speaker's **inane** comments made the audience lose interest in the presentation.

whirlwind

n. a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage

synonym : tornado, waterspout, dust devil

(1) economic **whirlwind**, (2) **whirlwind** of events

We went on a **whirlwind** visit to the sightseeing spot.

phylogenetics

n. the study of the evolutionary relationships and history of organisms based on comparisons of their genetic sequences and other biological characteristics

synonym : evolutionary genetics, cladistics

(1) biogeographical **phylogenetics**, (2) **phylogenetics** tree

Her research focuses on molecular **phylogenetics**, which uses gene sequences to study evolutionary relationships.

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.

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.

profess

v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm

synonym : declare, claim, confess

(1) **profess** innocence, (2) **profess** law

He **professes** his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.

entrails

n. the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something

synonym : guts, intestines, insides

(1) animal **entrails**, (2) **entrails** of the earth

The chef used the pig's **entrails** to make a traditional dish from his homeland.

replicate

v. to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

synonym : duplicate, imitate, reproduce

(1) **replicate** the cell, (2) **replicate** data

The experiment was **replicated** several times to ensure accuracy.

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**.

stasis

n. a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

synonym : stillness, inactivity, stagnation

(1) renal **stasis**, (2) **stasis** in development

The patient's **stasis** in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

biomolecule

n. a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

synonym : biochemical, molecule, protein

(1) **biomolecule** structure, (2) protein **biomolecule**

DNA is a complex **biomolecule** that contains the genetic information of an organism.

carboxyl

n. a functional group consisting of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and single-bonded to a hydroxyl group, commonly found in organic compounds

(1) amino **carboxyl**, (2) the **carboxyl** end of the molecule

The **carboxyl** group is a functional group that consists of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and a single-bonded to a hydroxyl group.

comet

n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

synonym :

meteor, asteroid, meteoroid

(1) the surface of the **comet**, (2) **comet** Halley

The **comet's** bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

interstellar

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

synonym: galactic, cosmic, intergalactic

(1) **interstellar** communication, (2) **interstellar** space

The **interstellar** medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

primordial

adj. existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe

synonym: ancient, original, primary

(1) **primordial** forms of life, (2) **primordial** gas

The discovery of the **primordial** soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.

glycine

n. an amino acid, often represented by the symbol "G," that is an essential building block of proteins and is involved in various biological processes in living organisms

synonym: glycogenic amino acid

(1) **glycine** supplement, (2) **glycine** metabolism

The protein contained a high **glycine** content, making it vital for specific metabolic reactions.

phenylalanine

n. an essential amino acid that plays a crucial role in protein synthesis and various other physiological processes in the human body but can be dangerous in excessive amounts for people with phenylketonuria (PKU)

synonym: amino acid, Phe

(1) **phenylalanine** deficiency, (2) **phenylalanine** hydroxylase

Certain soft drinks and sugar-free products have warning label about their **phenylalanine** content.

spectrometer

n. a scientific device used to measure the properties of light or other radiation, often used in chemistry and physics to analyze the composition of materials

synonym : spectroscope, analyzer, detector

(1) **spectrometer** measurement, (2) optical **spectrometer**

The infrared **spectrometer** helped identify the chemical composition of the sample.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym : mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

detectable

adj. capable of being discovered or identified

synonym : perceptible, noticeable, observable

(1) a barely **detectable** change, (2) **detectable** by the human ear

The object is **detectable** at ultraviolet wavelengths.

avid

adj. characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity

synonym : enthusiastic, eager, fervent

(1) **avid** baseball fan, (2) have **avid** eyes

She was an **avid** reader and spent hours every day lost in a book.

denizen

n. an inhabitant or resident of a particular place; a person, animal, or plant that is frequently found or is characteristic of a particular region or environment

synonym : inhabitant, resident, occupant

(1) internet **denizen**, (2) waterfront **denizen**

The lake is known for its **denizens** of various fish species.

typewriter

n. a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over

(1) **typewriter** keys, (2) electronic **typewriter**

I found an old **typewriter** at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.

poisonous

adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction

synonym: toxic, venomous, deadly

(1) **poisonous** plants, (2) **poisonous** chemicals

Some species of **poisonous snakes** can be deadly to humans if bitten.

lifeless

adj. without life; dead

synonym: inanimate, inert, motionless

(1) fall **lifeless**, (2) a **lifeless** corpse

The plant had a **lifeless** appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

vanish

v. disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely

synonym: disappear, go away, evaporate

(1) **vanish** into thin air, (2) **vanish** amid the crowd

Two months later, my tumor **vanished** utterly.

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.

deviate

v. to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach

synonym: stray, diverge, veer

(1) **deviate** from the norm, (2) **deviate** from the plan

It's important not to **deviate** from the established safety procedures.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pr____s innocence *v.* to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
2. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
3. va___h amid the crowd *v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely
4. con_____ed plot *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
5. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
6. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
7. int_____lar space *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
8. Ma_____n surface *adj.* of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants
9. pri_____al forms of life *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
10. waterfront de_____n *n.* an inhabitant or resident of a particular place; a person, animal, or plant that is frequently found or is characteristic of a particular region or environment
11. en_____ls of the earth *n.* the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something

ANSWERS: 1. profess, 2. improvisation, 3. vanish, 4. convoluted, 5. writ, 6. stabilize, 7. interstellar, 8. Martian, 9. primordial, 10. denizen, 11. entrails

12. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
13. animal en_____ls *n.* the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something
14. gr__d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
15. det_____te at a slow pace *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
16. fall li_____ss *adj.* without life; dead
17. have a__d eyes *adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity
18. po_____us chemicals *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
19. co__t Halley *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
20. po_____us plants *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction

ANSWERS: 12. physicist, 13. entrails, 14. grind, 15. deteriorate, 16. lifeless, 17. avid, 18. poisonous, 19. comet, 20. poisonous

21. int_____lar communication *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
22. me_____te shower *n.* a solid object originating in outer space that reaches the Earth's surface without completely vaporizing in the atmosphere; a rock that has fallen from space
23. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
24. economic wh_____nd *n.* a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage
25. protein bio_____le *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer
26. de_____e from the plan *v.* to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach
27. the surface of the co__t *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
28. qu__k physics *n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

ANSWERS: 21. interstellar, 22. meteorite, 23. neuroscience, 24. whirlwind, 25. biomolecule, 26. deviate, 27. comet, 28. quark

29. Ma_____n geography *adj.* of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants
30. in__e conversation *adj.* lacking significance, meaning, or substance; silly or frivolous in nature; lacking intelligence or understanding
31. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
32. typ_____er keys *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
33. pro_____on technology *n.* the act or process of propelling or driving something forward, often using a motor, engine, or other mechanical means
34. nuclear pro_____on *n.* the act or process of propelling or driving something forward, often using a motor, engine, or other mechanical means
35. wh_____nd of events *n.* a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage
36. the ca_____yl end of the molecule *n.* a functional group consisting of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and single-bonded to a hydroxyl group, commonly found in organic compounds
37. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command

ANSWERS: 29. Martian, 30. inane, 31. confer, 32. typewriter, 33. propulsion, 34. propulsion, 35. whirlwind, 36. carboxyl, 37. writ

38. gl__n emission *n.* a subatomic particle that binds quarks together in the nucleus of an atom, thus mediating the strong nuclear force
39. con_____ed legal language *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
40. pr_____s law *v.* to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
41. gl_____e metabolism *n.* an amino acid, often represented by the symbol "G," that is an essential building block of proteins and is involved in various biological processes in living organisms
42. electronic typ_____er *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
43. det_____le by the human ear *adj.* capable of being discovered or identified
44. biogeographical phy_____ics *n.* the study of the evolutionary relationships and history of organisms based on comparisons of their genetic sequences and other biological characteristics
45. bio_____ures discovery *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
46. bio_____ures detection *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life

ANSWERS: 38. gluon, 39. convoluted, 40. profess, 41. glycine, 42. typewriter, 43. detectable, 44. phylogenetics, 45. biosignature, 46. biosignature

47. de____e from the norm *v.* to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach
48. gl__n interaction *n.* a subatomic particle that binds quarks together in the nucleus of an atom, thus mediating the strong nuclear force
49. phe_____ine hydroxylase *n.* an essential amino acid that plays a crucial role in protein synthesis and various other physiological processes in the human body but can be dangerous in excessive amounts for people with phenylketonuria (PKU)
50. the antiparticle of a qu__k *n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet
51. det_____te condition *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
52. st_____ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
53. a li_____ss corpse *adj.* without life; dead
54. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
55. re_____te data *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

ANSWERS: 47. deviate, 48. gluon, 49. phenylalanine, 50. quark, 51. deteriorate, 52. stabilize, 53. lifeless, 54. confer, 55. replicate

56. renal st___s *n.* a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease
57. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
58. in__e remark *adj.* lacking significance, meaning, or substance; silly or frivolous in nature; lacking intelligence or understanding
59. me_____te impact *n.* a solid object originating in outer space that reaches the Earth's surface without completely vaporizing in the atmosphere; a rock that has fallen from space
60. a barely det_____le change *adj.* capable of being discovered or identified
61. re_____te the cell *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
62. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
63. gl_____e supplement *n.* an amino acid, often represented by the symbol "G," that is an essential building block of proteins and is involved in various biological processes in living organisms
64. st___s in development *n.* a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

ANSWERS: 56. stasis, 57. physicist, 58. inane, 59. meteorite, 60. detectable, 61. replicate, 62. neuroscience, 63. glycine, 64. stasis

65. pri_____al gas *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
66. gr__d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
67. amino ca_____yl *n.* a functional group consisting of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and single-bonded to a hydroxyl group, commonly found in organic compounds
68. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
69. spe_____ter measurement *n.* a scientific device used to measure the properties of light or other radiation, often used in chemistry and physics to analyze the composition of materials
70. va___h into thin air *v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely
71. 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
72. 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

ANSWERS: 65. primordial, 66. grind, 67. carboxyl, 68. improvisation, 69. spectrometer, 70. vanish, 71. ecologist, 72. ecologist

73. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
74. optical spe_____ter *n.* a scientific device used to measure the properties of light or other radiation, often used in chemistry and physics to analyze the composition of materials
75. phe_____ine deficiency *n.* an essential amino acid that plays a crucial role in protein synthesis and various other physiological processes in the human body but can be dangerous in excessive amounts for people with phenylketonuria (PKU)
76. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
77. internet de_____n *n.* an inhabitant or resident of a particular place; a person, animal, or plant that is frequently found or is characteristic of a particular region or environment
78. phy_____ics tree *n.* the study of the evolutionary relationships and history of organisms based on comparisons of their genetic sequences and other biological characteristics
79. bio_____le structure *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

ANSWERS: 73. germ, 74. spectrometer, 75. phenylalanine, 76. germ, 77. denizen, 78. phylogenetics, 79. biomolecule

80. a__d baseball fan

adj. characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity

ANSWERS: 80. avid

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The protein contained a high _____ content, making it vital for specific metabolic reactions.
 - n.* an amino acid, often represented by the symbol "G," that is an essential building block of proteins and is involved in various biological processes in living organisms

2. Scientists are searching for _____ on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.
 - n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life

3. The experiment was _____ several times to ensure accuracy.
 - v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

4. The object is _____ at ultraviolet wavelengths.
 - adj.* capable of being discovered or identified

5. She was an _____ reader and spent hours every day lost in a book.
 - adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity

6. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
 - n.* a written legal order or command

7. It's important not to _____ from the established safety procedures.
 - v.* to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach

ANSWERS: 1. glycine, 2. biosignatures, 3. replicated, 4. detectable, 5. avid, 6. writ, 7. deviate

8. The spacecraft's _____ system helped it travel through space.
n. the act or process of propelling or driving something forward, often using a motor, engine, or other mechanical means
9. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
10. Some species of _____ can be deadly to humans if bitten.
adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
11. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
12. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
13. James Joyce's books are full of long, _____ sentences.
adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
14. 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
15. The speaker's _____ comments made the audience lose interest in the presentation.
adj. lacking significance, meaning, or substance; silly or frivolous in nature; lacking intelligence or understanding

ANSWERS: 8. propulsion, 9. physicist, 10. poisonous snakes, 11. grind, 12. stabilizes, 13. convoluted, 14. improvisation, 15. inane

16. The plant had a _____ appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.
adj. without life; dead
17. The _____ fragments were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis.
n. a solid object originating in outer space that reaches the Earth's surface without completely vaporizing in the atmosphere; a rock that has fallen from space
18. 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
19. The infrared _____ helped identify the chemical composition of the sample.
n. a scientific device used to measure the properties of light or other radiation, often used in chemistry and physics to analyze the composition of materials
20. The chef used the pig's _____ to make a traditional dish from his homeland.
n. the internal organs of an animal or human body; the visceral organs, especially those in the abdominal cavity or gut; the inner workings or essence of something
21. The _____ group is a functional group that consists of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and a single-bonded to a hydroxyl group.
n. a functional group consisting of a carbon atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and single-bonded to a hydroxyl group, commonly found in organic compounds

ANSWERS: 16. lifeless, 17. meteorite, 18. ecologist, 19. spectrometer, 20. entrails, 21. carboxyl

22. The discovery of the _____ soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.
- adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
23. The _____ medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.
- adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
24. The patient's health _____ rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.
- v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
25. Certain soft drinks and sugar-free products have warning label about their _____ content.
- n.* an essential amino acid that plays a crucial role in protein synthesis and various other physiological processes in the human body but can be dangerous in excessive amounts for people with phenylketonuria (PKU)
26. We went on a _____ visit to the sightseeing spot.
- n.* a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage
27. Her research focuses on molecular _____ which uses gene sequences to study evolutionary relationships.
- n.* the study of the evolutionary relationships and history of organisms based on comparisons of their genetic sequences and other biological characteristics
28. DNA is a complex _____ that contains the genetic information of an organism.
- n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

ANSWERS: 22. primordial, 23. interstellar, 24. deteriorated, 25. phenylalanine, 26. whirlwind, 27. phylogenetics, 28. biomolecule

29. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
- n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
30. The lake is known for its _____ of various fish species.
- n.* an inhabitant or resident of a particular place; a person, animal, or plant that is frequently found or is characteristic of a particular region or environment
31. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
32. The strong force, mediated by _____ binds protons and neutrons in the atomic nucleus.
- n.* a subatomic particle that binds quarks together in the nucleus of an atom, thus mediating the strong nuclear force
33. The Big Bang theory states that _____ plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.
- n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet
34. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
- n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
35. I found an old _____ at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.
- n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over

ANSWERS: 29. germ, 30. denizens, 31. confer, 32. gluons, 33. quark-gluon, 34. neuroscience, 35. typewriter

36. The _____ bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

- n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

37. The patient's _____ in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.

- n.* a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

38. Two months later, my tumor _____ utterly.

- v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely

39. There is very little water in the _____ atmosphere.

- adj.* of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants

40. He _____ his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.

- v.* to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm

ANSWERS: 36. comet's, 37. stasis, 38. vanished, 39. Martian, 40. professes