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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Karen Thompson Walker: What fear can teach us |

TED Talk

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

[hat_fear_can_teach_us](https://www.ted.com/talks/karen_thompson_walker_w)

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

seawater

n. water from the sea or ocean, typically containing salt and various other dissolved minerals

synonym: saltwater, brine, ocean water

(1) **seawater** pollution, (2) **seawater** bacteria

The desalination plant turned **seawater** into drinking water through a complex process.

catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

synonym: fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

swell

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

synonym: expand, increase, inflate

(1) **swell** at room temperature, (2) **swell** a population

His arm was **swelling** from the insect bite.

huddle

v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

synonym: cluster, crowd, group

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

open fire

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

rudimentary

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

synonym: essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

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**.

optimist

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

synonym: positive thinker, dreamer, idealist

(1) **optimist** by nature, (2) excessive **optimist**

She is a confident **optimist** who always looks on the bright side.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym: defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

insightful

adj. having or showing a deep understanding and perception of a situation or subject

synonym: perceptive, astute, perspicacious

(1) acutely **insightful**, (2) **insightful** analysis

His **insightful** comments added a new perspective to the discussion.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

chandelier

n. a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls

(1) twinkling **chandelier**, (2) **chandelier-lit** room

This room had a **chandelier** glittering with crystals

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

remembrance

n. the act of remembering or honoring a person, event, or thing from the past; a memory or memento

synonym: memory, recollection, commemoration

(1) **remembrance** day, (2) eternal **remembrance**

The annual **remembrance** ceremony honors those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

haunted

adj. inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions

synonym: spooky, eerie, ghostly

(1) **haunted** house, (2) **haunted** by memories

The old mansion was known to be **haunted**, with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.

visionary

adj. having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative

synonym : prophetic, far-sighted, imaginative

(1) **visionary** business, (2) **visionary** ideas

The **visionary** leader had a clear plan for the company's future.

passee

adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym : outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passee** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

capsize

v. to overturn or tip over a boat or other watercraft; to turn upside down or on its side, often as a result of a sudden force or imbalance

synonym : overturn, overturning, tipping

(1) **capsize** a boat, (2) **capsize** in the middle of the storm

The strong wind caused the kayak to **capsize**, throwing the paddler into the water.

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym : gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

populate

v. to inhabit or occupy a particular area, region, or environment with a certain number or type of people, animals, or plants; to fill out or complete a form, document, or database with relevant information

synonym : inhabit, occupy, dwell

(1) **populate** the countryside, (2) **populate** the spreadsheet

Deer, squirrels, and birds primarily **populate** the forest.

cannibal

n. a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice

synonym: man-eater, anthropophagite

(1) **cannibal** tribe, (2) habitual **cannibal**

The horror movie portrayed a group of **cannibals** who hunted humans in the woods.

ashore

adv. on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water

synonym: on the beach, on the shore

(1) bring **ashore**, (2) go **ashore** after sunset

The ship finally came **ashore** after a long voyage.

batter

v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

synonym: beat, pound, strike

(1) **batter** the eggs, (2) the **batter's** box

He got so angry that he **battered** the door down.

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**.

unintentional

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

synonym: accidental, unforeseen, spontaneous

(1) avoid **unintentional** harm, (2) **unintentional** insult

The mistake was **unintentional** and made in good faith.

roast

v. to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven

synonym: bake, broil, grill

(1) **roast** coffee beans, (2) **roast** beef

The chef **roasted** the chicken to perfection in the oven.

suspense

n. a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome

synonym : tension, anticipation, excitement

(1) **suspense** thriller, (2) **suspense-filled** movie

The mystery novel was full of **suspense**, keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.

provoke

v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

synonym : stimulate, incite, encourage

(1) **provoke** a disease, (2) **provoke** a reaction

Her behavior **provoked** a quarrel between the couple.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

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.

paranoia

n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability

synonym : suspicion, mistrust, delusions

(1) encourage **paranoia**, (2) suffering from **paranoia**

His **paranoia** about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.

concoct

v. to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose

synonym: conceive, invent, cook up

(1) **concoct** a conspiracy, (2) **concoct** herbal medicines

They **concocted** a plot to discredit the local politician.

illuminating

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

synonym: enlightening, informative, clarifying

(1) **illuminating** light, (2) an **illuminating** answer

The lecture was **illuminating** and gave me a new perspective on the topic.

aft

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

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

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

forgo

v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to

synonym: abstain, renounce, sacrifice

(1) **forgo** dessert, (2) **forgo** the luxury

We had to **forgo** our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.

embark

v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

synonym: enter, undertake, commence

(1) **embark** on a trip, (2) **embark** on a foolish adventure

We **embarked** on a new project.

cannibalism

n. the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species

synonym : anthropophagy, man-eating

(1) **cannibalism** practice, (2) incidence of **cannibalism**

The tribe's religious rituals involved **cannibalism** of their enemies.

probabilistic

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

synonym : probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym : collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym : guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

dread

v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

synonym : fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old

We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym : hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

sway

v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something

synonym: swing, oscillate, influence

(1) **sway** back and forth, (2) **sway** to the rhythm

The politician tried to **sway** public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.

temperament

n. a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior

synonym: disposition, character, personality

(1) the **temperament** of an engineer, (2) a hysterical **temperament**

She has a calm **temperament** and never gets overly upset or angry.

temper

n. a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object

synonym: mood, disposition, nature

(1) a hasty **temper**, (2) bridle my **temper**

The **temper** of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.

complicate

v. to make something more complex or difficult to understand, often by introducing new elements or factors

synonym: complexify, muddle, confuse

(1) **complicate** matters, (2) **complicate** a plot

Don't **complicate** the situation by adding unnecessary details to the report.

horrify

v. to shock or disgust greatly

synonym: shock, dismay, terrify

(1) **horrify** audience, (2) **horrify** victims

The series of terrorist attacks **horrify** the entire nation.

lurid

adj. vivid or colorful to an unpleasant or sensational degree; causing shock or disgust; sensational and exaggerated

synonym: garish, sensational, shocking

(1) **lurid** details, (2) **lurid** colors

The tabloid newspaper featured **lurid** headlines about the celebrity scandal.

salacious

adj. characterized by or describing inappropriate, often sexually suggestive content or behavior; excessively erotic or lustful in nature

synonym: provocative, suggestive, titillating

(1) **salacious** gossip, (2) a **salacious** novel

The tabloids publish **salacious** stories to attract more readers.

buildup

n. the accumulation or increase of something over time

synonym: accumulation, increase, growth

(1) lactic acid **buildup**, (2) huge military **buildup**

The **buildup** of stress over time can lead to health problems.

nuanced

adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

synonym: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

clairvoyance

n. the supposed ability to see or perceive things beyond the normal human senses, typically referring to the ability to perceive events or gain information about distant or future events; psychic insight or foresight

synonym: foresight, sixth sense, ESP

(1) psychic **clairvoyance**, (2) natural **clairvoyance**

The seminar on psychic phenomena promised to delve deep into the realms of **clairvoyance** and telepathy.

elusive

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

synonym: mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. se_____er bacteria | <i>n.</i> water from the sea or ocean, typically containing salt and various other dissolved minerals |
| 2. sa_____us gossip | <i>adj.</i> characterized by or describing inappropriate, often sexually suggestive content or behavior; excessively erotic or lustful in nature |
| 3. fo__o dessert | <i>v.</i> to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to |
| 4. the common but nu_____d opinion | <i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. |
| 5. ca_____e in the middle of the storm | <i>v.</i> to overturn or tip over a boat or other watercraft; to turn upside down or on its side, often as a result of a sudden force or imbalance |
| 6. su_____se thriller | <i>n.</i> a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome |
| 7. a w__t of summons | <i>n.</i> a written legal order or command |
| 8. se_____er pollution | <i>n.</i> water from the sea or ocean, typically containing salt and various other dissolved minerals |
| 9. ca_____e a boat | <i>v.</i> to overturn or tip over a boat or other watercraft; to turn upside down or on its side, often as a result of a sudden force or imbalance |

ANSWERS: 1. seawater, 2. salacious, 3. forgo, 4. nuanced, 5. capsize, 6. suspense, 7. writ, 8. seawater, 9. capsize

10. can_____sm practice *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
11. 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
12. uni_____nal insult *adj.* not done or made on purpose; accidental
13. ha_____d house *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
14. s___y to the rhythm *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
15. co_____r fatal disease *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
16. em___k on a foolish adventure *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
17. pro_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

ANSWERS: 10. cannibalism, 11. starve, 12. unintentional, 13. haunted, 14. sway, 15. conquer, 16. embark, 17. probabilistic

18. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
19. the tem_____nt of an engineer *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
20. encourage pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
21. dr__d failure *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
22. eternal rem_____ce *n.* the act of remembering or honoring a person, event, or thing from the past; a memory or memento
23. com_____te matters *v.* to make something more complex or difficult to understand, often by introducing new elements or factors
24. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
25. psychic cla_____nce *n.* the supposed ability to see or perceive things beyond the normal human senses, typically referring to the ability to perceive events or gain information about distant or future events; psychic insight or foresight
26. com_____te a plot *v.* to make something more complex or difficult to understand, often by introducing new elements or factors

ANSWERS: 18. rumor, 19. temperament, 20. paranoia, 21. dread, 22. remembrance, 23. complicate, 24. terrify, 25. clairvoyance, 26. complicate

27. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
28. lu__d details *adj.* vivid or colorful to an unpleasant or sensational degree; causing shock or disgust; sensational and exaggerated
29. an ill_____ing answer *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
30. cat_____hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
31. pr_____e a reaction *v.* to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
32. po_____te the countryside *v.* to inhabit or occupy a particular area, region, or environment with a certain number or type of people, animals, or plants; to fill out or complete a form, document, or database with relevant information
33. vi_____ry ideas *adj.* having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative
34. ro__t beef *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
35. dr__d getting old *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
36. a theoretical concept in
neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

ANSWERS: 27. passe, 28. lurid, 29. illuminating, 30. catastrophic, 31. provoke, 32. populate, 33. visionary, 34. roast, 35. dread, 36. neuroscience

37. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
38. avoid uni_____nal harm *adj.* not done or made on purpose; accidental
39. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
40. a hasty te____r *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
41. fo__o the luxury *v.* to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
42. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
43. natural cla_____nce *n.* the supposed ability to see or perceive things beyond the normal human senses, typically referring to the ability to perceive events or gain information about distant or future events; psychic insight or foresight
44. rud_____ry understanding *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
45. excessive op_____st *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
46. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

ANSWERS: 37. humming, 38. unintentional, 39. frightening, 40. temper, 41. forgo, 42. passe, 43. clairvoyance, 44. rudimentary, 45. optimist, 46. probabilistic

47. ho____y audience *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
48. hu____e in a temporary shelter *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
49. an el____e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
50. a rud____ry plant *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
51. a hysterical tem____nt *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
52. ca____al tribe *n.* a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice
53. fri____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
54. twinkling cha____er *n.* a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
55. rem____ce day *n.* the act of remembering or honoring a person, event, or thing from the past; a memory or memento
56. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
57. op____st by nature *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
58. incidence of can____sm *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species

ANSWERS: 47. horrify, 48. huddle, 49. elusive, 50. rudimentary, 51. temperament, 52. cannibal, 53. frightening, 54. chandelier, 55. remembrance, 56. writ, 57. optimist, 58. cannibalism

59. sw__l a population *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
60. go as___e after sunset *adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
61. su_____se-filled movie *n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
62. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
63. ho_____y victims *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
64. habitual ca_____al *n.* a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice
65. victim of cat_____hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
66. s__y back and forth *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
67. st__r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
68. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
69. em__k on a trip *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

ANSWERS: 59. swell, 60. ashore, 61. suspense, 62. starvation, 63. horrify, 64. cannibal, 65. catastrophic, 66. sway, 67. steer, 68. rumor, 69. embark

70. cha_____er-lit room *n.* a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
71. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
72. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
73. ha_____d by memories *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
74. ill_____ing light *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
75. bridle my te____r *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
76. lu__d colors *adj.* vivid or colorful to an unpleasant or sensational degree; causing shock or disgust; sensational and exaggerated
77. suffering from pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
78. the ba____r's box *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

ANSWERS: 70. chandelier, 71. steer, 72. aft, 73. haunted, 74. illuminating, 75. temper, 76. lurid, 77. paranoia, 78. batter

79. ro__t coffee beans *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
80. the house was a wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
81. huge military bu____p *n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time
82. the threats te____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
83. a worthless wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
84. the branch of neu____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
85. hu___e around the open fire *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
86. co____t herbal medicines *v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose
87. nu____d view *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
88. sto____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
89. vi____ry business *adj.* having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative
90. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

ANSWERS: 79. roast, 80. wreck, 81. buildup, 82. terrify, 83. wreck, 84. neuroscience, 85. huddle, 86. concoct, 87. nuanced, 88. storytelling, 89. visionary, 90. humming

91. co_____t a conspiracy *v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose
92. pr_____e a disease *v.* to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
93. acutely ins_____ul *adj.* having or showing a deep understanding and perception of a situation or subject
94. ins_____ul analysis *adj.* having or showing a deep understanding and perception of a situation or subject
95. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
96. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
97. track down an el_____e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
98. sw__l at room temperature *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
99. po_____te the spreadsheet *v.* to inhabit or occupy a particular area, region, or environment with a certain number or type of people, animals, or plants; to fill out or complete a form, document, or database with relevant information
100. a sa_____us novel *adj.* characterized by or describing inappropriate, often sexually suggestive content or behavior; excessively erotic or lustful in nature

ANSWERS: 91. concoct, 92. provoke, 93. insightful, 94. insightful, 95. storytelling, 96. starvation, 97. elusive, 98. swell, 99. populate, 100. salacious

101. bring as___e *adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
102. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
103. 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
104. ba___r the eggs *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
105. co_____r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
106. lactic acid bu_____p *n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time

ANSWERS: 101. ashore, 102. aft, 103. starve, 104. batter, 105. conquer, 106. buildup

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The horror movie portrayed a group of _____ who hunted humans in the woods.
n. a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice
2. The physicist who found the _____ particle won the Nobel Prize.
adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
3. The annual _____ ceremony honors those who sacrificed their lives for the country.
n. the act of remembering or honoring a person, event, or thing from the past; a memory or memento
4. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
5. We had to _____ our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.
v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
6. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
7. She is a confident _____ who always looks on the bright side.
n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

ANSWERS: 1. cannibals, 2. elusive, 3. remembrance, 4. rumor, 5. forgo, 6. humming, 7. optimist

8. 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
9. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
10. The tabloid newspaper featured _____ headlines about the celebrity scandal.
- adj.* vivid or colorful to an unpleasant or sensational degree; causing shock or disgust; sensational and exaggerated
11. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.
- adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
12. The _____ of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
- n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
13. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was _____.
- adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
14. The ship finally came _____ after a long voyage.
- adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
15. 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

ANSWERS: 8. starve, 9. frightening, 10. lurid, 11. nuanced, 12. temper, 13. catastrophic, 14. ashore, 15. neuroscience

16. The lecture was _____ and gave me a new perspective on the topic.
adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
17. We all _____ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.
v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
18. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.
n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
19. The chef _____ the chicken to perfection in the oven.
v. to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
20. The _____ of stress over time can lead to health problems.
n. the accumulation or increase of something over time
21. We _____ on a new project.
v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
22. The mistake was _____ and made in good faith.
adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental
23. This room had a _____ glittering with crystals
n. a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
24. Don't _____ the situation by adding unnecessary details to the report.
v. to make something more complex or difficult to understand, often by introducing new elements or factors

ANSWERS: 16. illuminating, 17. dread, 18. wreck, 19. roasted, 20. buildup, 21. embarked, 22. unintentional, 23. chandelier, 24. complicate

25. Deer, squirrels, and birds primarily _____ the forest.
- v. to inhabit or occupy a particular area, region, or environment with a certain number or type of people, animals, or plants; to fill out or complete a form, document, or database with relevant information
26. The politician tried to _____ public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.
- v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
27. The _____ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
- adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
28. The desalination plant turned _____ into drinking water through a complex process.
- n. water from the sea or ocean, typically containing salt and various other dissolved minerals
29. His _____ about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.
- n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
30. The mystery novel was full of _____ keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.
- n. a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome

ANSWERS: 25. populate, 26. sway, 27. aft, 28. seawater, 29. paranoia, 30. suspense,

31. The strong wind caused the kayak to _____ throwing the paddler into the water.
- v.* to overturn or tip over a boat or other watercraft; to turn upside down or on its side, often as a result of a sudden force or imbalance
32. He got so angry that he _____ the door down.
- v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
33. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
- adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
34. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
- n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
35. His _____ comments added a new perspective to the discussion.
- adj.* having or showing a deep understanding and perception of a situation or subject
36. They _____ a plot to discredit the local politician.
- v.* to make something, especially food, by mixing or adding different things; to invent a story or plan, especially for a dishonest purpose
37. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.
- v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
38. The _____ leader had a clear plan for the company's future.
- adj.* having or showing exceptional foresight and imagination; not practical or realizable; speculative

ANSWERS: 31. capsize, 32. battered, 33. probabilistic, 34. starvation, 35. insightful, 36. concocted, 37. steer, 38. visionary

39. Her behavior _____ a quarrel between the couple.
v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
40. The series of terrorist attacks _____ the entire nation.
v. to shock or disgust greatly
41. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
42. The tribe's religious rituals involved _____ of their enemies.
n. the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
43. His arm was _____ from the insect bite.
v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
44. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.
v. to bring under control by force or authority
45. The tabloids publish _____ stories to attract more readers.
adj. characterized by or describing inappropriate, often sexually suggestive content or behavior; excessively erotic or lustful in nature
46. He has only a _____ knowledge of this topic.
adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
47. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command

ANSWERS: 39. provoked, 40. horrify, 41. storytelling, 42. cannibalism, 43. swelling, 44. conquer, 45. salacious, 46. rudimentary, 47. writ

48. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered _____ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

49. The old mansion was known to be _____ with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.

adj. inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions

50. She has a calm _____ and never gets overly upset or angry.

n. a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior

51. The children _____ together for warmth in the cold winter storm.

v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

52. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.

v. to frighten someone very much

53. The seminar on psychic phenomena promised to delve deep into the realms of _____ and telepathy.

n. the supposed ability to see or perceive things beyond the normal human senses, typically referring to the ability to perceive events or gain information about distant or future events; psychic insight or foresight

ANSWERS: 48. passe, 49. haunted, 50. temperament, 51. huddled, 52. terrify, 53. clairvoyance