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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eric Berlow: Simplifying complexity | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym : conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

complexity

n. the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand

synonym : intricacy, sophistication, elaboration

(1) cognitive **complexity**, (2) **complexity** theory

The project's **complexity** made it difficult for the team to complete it on time.

convince

v. to persuade someone or make someone believe that something is true

synonym : persuade, win over, convert

(1) **convince** her to go with us, (2) **convince** an opponent
I am considering what I should do to **convince** him.

complicated

adj. involving a lot of different things or parts in a way that is difficult to understand or analyze

synonym : complex, convoluted, intricate

(1) a **complicated** process, (2) become increasingly

complicated

He did **complicated** pen-and-ink drawings in just a few days.

craft

n. an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands

synonym : art, skill, workmanship

(1) **craft** arts of Japan, (2) **craft** manufacture

His hometown was where he first acquired the **craft** of wood carving.

baguette

n. a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

synonym : french bread, loaf, stick

(1) crusty **baguette**, (2) fresh **baguette**

I bought a delicious **baguette** from the bakery for dinner.

olive

n. a small green or black fruit with a bitter taste that is eaten or used to produce oil or a tree on which this fruit grows

(1) **olive** branch, (2) **olive** oil

They enjoyed reading under the **olive** trees.

poppy

n. a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives

(1) **poppy** tea, (2) **poppy** seeds

She wore a red **poppy** on her lapel to honor the veterans.

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.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, connect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

fee

n. a sum of money charged for a particular service

synonym: charge, cost, expense

(1) **fee** calculation, (2) service **fee**

The lawyer's **fee** for the case was \$10,000.

alpine

adj. relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

synonym: mountain, highland, elevated

(1) **alpine** region, (2) **alpine** plant

We went on an exhilarating **alpine** adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

native

adj. connecting with or describing someone's birth country or place of birth, or someone born in a specific country or place

synonym: endemic, domestic, aboriginal

(1) **native** to Africa, (2) **native** language

The vegetation here is almost wholly **native**.

disappear

v. to cease to exist or be visible

synonym: fade, evaporate, vanish

(1) **disappear** without a trace, (2) **disappear** after a week

They watched the train **disappear** into the distance.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym: edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

extinction

n. the complete disappearance of a species from the earth
synonym: disappearance, eradication, annihilation

(1) **extinction** prevention, (2) brink of **extinction**

The **extinction** of the dinosaurs is thought to have been caused by an asteroid impact.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

synonym: insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

anticipate

v. to expect or predict that something will happen; to tell in advance

synonym: forecast, predict, expect

(1) **anticipate** your kind cooperation, (2) **anticipate** a black future

We **anticipate** heavy snowfall tomorrow.

discovery

n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known

synonym: finding, uncovering, detection

(1) a scientific **discovery**, (2) the great **discovery** of the century

Her research team made an important **discovery**.

predictable

adj. capable of being known, seen or declared in advance

synonym: foreseeable, expectable, likely

(1) **predictable** pattern, (2) in a **predictable** manner

The economy becomes more volatile and less **predictable**.

insight

n. the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep

understanding of what something is like

synonym: wisdom, discernment, understanding

(1) a profound **insight**, (2) share my **insights**

We gained various **insights** by analyzing the vast amount of data owned by the company.

applicable

adj. fit or suitable to be applied; having relevance to a person or thing

synonym: practical, usable, useful

(1) give **applicable** examples, (2) accordance with **applicable** law

This regulation is not **applicable** to minors.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym: imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

untangle

v. to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain

synonym: disentangle, unravel, decipher

(1) **untangle** a situation, (2) **untangle** a problem

I need to **untangle** this knot before using this rope piece.

encourage

v. to give someone support, confidence, or hope; to persuade someone to do or continue to do something by making it easier for them and making them believe it is a good thing to do

synonym: facilitate, persuade, stimulate

(1) **encourage** a sense of affinity, (2) **encourage** antisocial behavior

They **encouraged** customers with a premium for loyal patronage.

quest

n. a long or challenging search for something
synonym: exploration, inquisition, pursuit

(1) the **quest** for truth, (2) on a **quest** for happiness
That adventurer traveled in **quest** of buried treasure.

plot

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

synonym: scheme, plan, design

(1) **plot** twist, (2) **plot** a revolution

The **plot** of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

carbon

n. a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals

(1) **carbon** dioxide, (2) **carbon** emission

Trees absorb **carbon** dioxide and give off oxygen.

corporate

adj. of or relating to a large company

synonym: business, commercial, organizational

(1) **corporate** right, (2) **corporate** environment

The **corporate** office has decided to lay off 10% of the workforce.

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.

chain

n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle

synonym: series, string, link

(1) **chain** reaction, (2) supply **chain**

The **chain** on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.

ecosystem

n. all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment

(1) marine **ecosystem**, (2) change the **ecosystem**

Human conservation efforts often fail unexpectedly because they disturb the balance of the **ecosystem**.

habitat

n. the type of natural environment in which an organism or group usually lives or occurs

synonym: dwelling, environment, home ground

(1) a marine **habitat**, (2) threatened **habitat**

The **habitat** of this bird is freshwater areas and saltwater marshes.

patch

n. a small piece of material or fabric used to repair or reinforce a tear, hole, or damaged area; a small plot of land used for cultivation or a specific purpose

synonym: mend, repair, fix

(1) **patch** of grass, (2) software **patch**

I need to sew a **patch** onto my jeans that ripped.

endangered

adj. at risk of extinction because it is facing significant threats

synonym: at risk, threatened, vulnerable

(1) **endangered** species, (2) **endangered** ecosystem

The government has implemented policies to protect the habitat of **endangered** animals.

nation

n. a large organized community of people living in a particular country or region and having a particular culture

synonym: country, state, sovereign entity

(1) **nation-state**, (2) a seafaring **nation**

The **nation** of Japan is known for its unique culture and advanced technology.

predict

v. to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience

synonym: forecast, anticipate, foresee

(1) **predict** the future, (2) **predict** when she will arrive

It's notoriously challenging to **predict** birth rates.

hone

v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

synonym: sharpen, refine, perfect

(1) **hone** abilities, (2) **hone** intuition

The athlete worked with a coach to **hone** her techniques and improve her performance.

sphere

n. a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity

synonym: ball, globe, scope

(1) **sphere** of influence, (2) business **sphere**

The **sphere** of the earth is divided into several layers including the crust, mantle, and core.

influence

n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself

synonym: power, leverage, effect

(1) **influence** a child's future, (2) **influence** the daily life

The former emperor had a particular **influence** even after he abdicated.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

degree

n. a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of

academic or professional attainment

synonym : level, qualification, diploma

(1) bachelor's **degree**, (2) **degree** centigrade

She received her **degree** in psychology from the university.

embrace

v. to accept something willingly and enthusiastically;
(noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection

synonym : grasp, hold tightly, accept

(1) **embrace** an opportunity, (2) a warm **embrace**

The woods **embrace** the house.

gear

n. a toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion; a set of tools, equipment, or other items for a particular purpose

synonym : equipment, tools, apparatus

(1) sports **gear**, (2) a **gear** change lever

She checked her **gear** before embarking on the hike.

courtesy

n. polite behavior or remark that shows respect for other people

synonym : civility, politeness, respect

(1) **courtesy** call, (2) fail to show **courtesy**

Different cultures have different ways of expressing **courtesy**.

government

n. the group of people with authority to control a country or state

synonym : administration, regime, state

(1) **government** bureaucracy, (2) **government** funding

The federal **government** is planning to increase taxes for the next fiscal year.

diagram

n. a simplified illustration of the appearance, structure, or workings of something

synonym : chart, figure, graph

(1) 3D **diagram**, (2) in a **diagram**

He is drawing a **diagram** illustrating how the equipment operates.

insurgent

adj. rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency

synonym: subversive, rebellious, mutinous

(1) **insurgent** attack, (2) **insurgent** group

The government forces fought brutally against the **insurgent** rebels in the remote region.

strategy

n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

synonym: approach, procedure, scenario

(1) military **strategy**, (2) develop a **strategy**

Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing **strategy**.

instantly

adv. immediately

synonym: immediately, right away, directly

(1) **instantly** cope with, (2) be killed **instantly**

I remembered that person **instantly** and never forgot.

ridicule

n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

synonym: derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

crazy

adj. stupid or not sensible; very angry

synonym: insane, absurd, bizarre

(1) **crazy** about cars and racing, (2) a **crazy** scheme

The rain and thunder are **crazy** today.

statistics

n. the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data

(1) **statistics** for cancer, (2) official **statistics**

The **statistics** demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.

relate

v. to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

synonym: connect, link, associate

(1) **relate** a story, (2) **relate** a message

He tried to **relate** his experience to the group, but they couldn't understand.

sink

v. to submerge or go down below the surface of a liquid or substance; to decline or deteriorate; to cause something to go down into a liquid substance or sink into something else

synonym: descend, drop, plummet

(1) **sink** a lot of capital, (2) **sink** a buzzer-beater

The abandoned ship slowly began to **sink** into the murky waters of the harbor.

premiere

n. the first public performance of a play, film, or piece of music, or the opening of a show or exhibition

synonym: debut, first showing, opening night

(1) the world **premiere**, (2) **premiere** of the theater

The **premiere** of the new movie was held at the city's main theater.

eliminate

v. to remove or get rid of someone or something

synonym: wipe out, destroy, eradicate

(1) **eliminate** contestants, (2) **eliminate** sexual barriers

We can **eliminate** this possibility from those consumptions.

quarter

n. one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion
synonym: fourth, one-fourth

(1) a **quarter** mile, (2) end of the first **quarter**

The unemployment rate in the first **quarter** was 2.3 percentage points higher than in the previous.

actionable

adj. capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies

synonym: feasible, achievable, practical

(1) **actionable** advice, (2) **actionable** steps

The report highlighted several **actionable** recommendations for improving customer satisfaction.

harshness

n. the quality or state of being unpleasantly rough, severe, or stern; the degree to which something is difficult to endure; the unpleasantness of a sound or tone

synonym: severity, roughness, strictness

(1) **harshness** of criticism, (2) **harshness** of treatment

The coach's **harshness** towards the team was seen as motivating and demoralizing by others.

terrain

n. the physical features of a piece of land, including hills, valleys, rivers, and forests

synonym: land, geography, topography

(1) **terrain** map, (2) permafrost **terrain**

The mountainous **terrain** was rough and rocky.

minority

n. the smaller part of a group, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole; a period before adult legal age

synonym: adolescence, nonage, juvenility

(1) a **minority** position, (2) number of **minority** students

Some ethnic **minority** groups experienced discrimination in society.

military

adj. relating to or characteristic of members of the armed forces; of or relating to war or warfare

synonym : armed, martial, warlike

(1) a **military** operation, (2) a **military** leader

The **military** academy was known for its strict discipline and training.

violent

adj. involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something

synonym : aggressive, intense, turbulent

(1) victim of a **violent** crime, (2) **violent** incident

The protesters became **violent** when the police tried to disperse them.

broad

adj. very wide; general

synonym : wide, expansive, comprehensive

(1) attract **broad** attention, (2) a **broad** mind

He accumulated wealth across a **broad** spectrum of assets.

engagement

n. a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time

synonym : betrothal, promise, commitment

(1) a prior **engagement**, (2) break off an **engagement**

They selected a gorgeous diamond **engagement** ring.

ethnic

adj. relating or belonging to a group of people who share a cultural tradition

synonym : racial, ethnical, tribal

(1) **ethnic** minority, (2) single **ethnic** group

Each **ethnic** group has its unique rituals.

rivalry

n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

synonym : competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

religion

n. a deep conviction in a supernatural power that controls human destiny

synonym : faith, creed, belief

(1) **religion** sociology, (2) freedom of **religion**

Their **religion** strictly prohibits them from drinking or gambling.

transparent

adj. easy to perceive, detect, or understand; (of a material or article) permitting light to pass through freely

synonym : translucent, evident, diaphanous

(1) a **transparent** lie, (2) **transparent** crystal

The focus of these initiatives is to make the financial system more **transparent**.

economy

n. the system by which a country or region produces, manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel

synonym : finance, trade, business

(1) **economy** of scale, (2) **economy** class

The **economy** of the country is struggling due to the recent political instability.

develop

v. to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

synonym : evolve, progress, advance

(1) **develop** a strategy, (2) **develop** a skill

We must **develop** a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

provision

n. the act of providing or supplying something; a clause in a document or law that specifies a particular requirement or condition

synonym :

supply, agreement, stocking

(1) **provision** for loan losses, (2) administrative **provision**
The new law includes **provisions** for increased penalties for repeat offenders.

decipher

v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

synonym: interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message

He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

relieve

v. to make something burdensome, unpleasant, or painful less severe

synonym: alleviate, ease, assuage

(1) **relieve** his thirst, (2) **relieve** stress

The medicine **relieved** his headache, and he felt much better.

emerge

v. to move out of or away from something and become visible

synonym: arise, occur, appear

(1) **emerge** as a butterfly, (2) **emerge** from poverty

During colonial eras, new migratory patterns **emerged**.

simplicity

n. the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do

synonym: easiness, plainness, modesty

(1) a life of **simplicity**, (2) refined **simplicity**

He liked the car because of the **simplicity** of the design.

zoom

v. to move along very quickly; (noun) the act of rising upward into the air

synonym: move quickly, dive, buzz

(1) **zoom** in on a photo, (2) **zoom** lens

He **zoomed** back in time to the soccer game.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a marine ha____t *n.* the type of natural environment in which an organism or group usually lives or occurs

2. de____p a strategy *v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

3. p__t a revolution *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

4. 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

5. crusty ba____te *n.* a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

6. ant____te your kind cooperation *v.* to expect or predict that something will happen; to tell in advance

7. po__y seeds *n.* a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives

ANSWERS: 1. habitat, 2. develop, 3. plot, 4. ecologist, 5. baguette, 6. anticipate, 7. poppy

8. ec____y of scale *n.* the system by which a country or region produces, manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel
9. the qu__t for truth *n.* a long or challenging search for something
10. s__k a buzzer-beater *v.* to submerge or go down below the surface of a liquid or substance; to decline or deteriorate; to cause something to go down into a liquid substance or sink into something else
11. p__t twist *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
12. service f_e *n.* a sum of money charged for a particular service
13. threatened ha____t *n.* the type of natural environment in which an organism or group usually lives or occurs
14. in a pre____le manner *adj.* capable of being known, seen or declared in advance
15. fresh ba____te *n.* a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape
16. cognitive com____ty *n.* the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand

ANSWERS: 8. economy, 9. quest, 10. sink, 11. plot, 12. fee, 13. habitat, 14. predictable, 15. baguette, 16. complexity

17. a scientific di_____ry *n.* the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
18. software pa__h *n.* a small piece of material or fabric used to repair or reinforce a tear, hole, or damaged area; a small plot of land used for cultivation or a specific purpose
19. com_____ty theory *n.* the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand
20. co_____ce an opponent *v.* to persuade someone or make someone believe that something is true
21. ext_____on prevention *n.* the complete disappearance of a species from the earth
22. z__m in on a photo *v.* to move along very quickly; (noun) the act of rising upward into the air
23. change the ec_____em *n.* all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment
24. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
25. a cr__y scheme *adj.* stupid or not sensible; very angry
26. pr_____t the future *v.* to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience
27. public ri_____le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

ANSWERS: 17. discovery, 18. patch, 19. complexity, 20. convince, 21. extinction, 22. zoom, 23. ecosystem, 24. brink, 25. crazy, 26. predict, 27. ridicule

28. el_____te contestants *v.* to remove or get rid of someone or something
29. cr__y about cars and racing *adj.* stupid or not sensible; very angry
30. share my in_____ts *n.* the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like
31. in_____nt group *adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency
32. pre_____le pattern *adj.* capable of being known, seen or declared in advance
33. pr_____t when she will arrive *v.* to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience
34. em___e from poverty *v.* to move out of or away from something and become visible
35. on a qu__t for happiness *n.* a long or challenging search for something
36. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
37. break off an eng_____nt *n.* a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time
38. de___e centigrade *n.* a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment

ANSWERS: 28. eliminate, 29. crazy, 30. insight, 31. insurgent, 32. predictable, 33. predict, 34. emerge, 35. quest, 36. visualize, 37. engagement, 38. degree

39. gov_____nt funding *n.* the group of people with authority to control a country or state
40. na___e language *adj.* connecting with or describing someone's birth country or place of birth, or someone born in a specific country or place
41. te_____n map *n.* the physical features of a piece of land, including hills, valleys, rivers, and forests
42. re___e a story *v.* to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something
43. el_____te sexual barriers *v.* to remove or get rid of someone or something
44. co_____ce her to go with us *v.* to persuade someone or make someone believe that something is true
45. a prior eng_____nt *n.* a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time
46. ca___n emission *n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
47. di_____ar without a trace *v.* to cease to exist or be visible
48. de_____er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

ANSWERS: 39. government, 40. native, 41. terrain, 42. relate, 43. eliminate, 44. convince, 45. engagement, 46. carbon, 47. disappear, 48. decipher

49. number of mi____ty students *n.* the smaller part of a group, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole; a period before adult legal age
50. de____er code *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
51. pr____on for loan losses *n.* the act of providing or supplying something; a clause in a document or law that specifies a particular requirement or condition
52. a br__d mind *adj.* very wide; general
53. su___e muscles *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
54. ha____ss of criticism *n.* the quality or state of being unpleasantly rough, severe, or stern; the degree to which something is difficult to endure; the unpleasantness of a sound or tone
55. mo____to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
56. supply ch__n *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
57. a warm em____e *v.* to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection

ANSWERS: 49. minority, 50. decipher, 51. provision, 52. broad, 53. supple, 54. harshness, 55. mosquito, 56. chain, 57. embrace

58. ant_____te a black future *v.* to expect or predict that something will happen; to tell in advance
59. a tra_____nt lie *adj.* easy to perceive, detect, or understand; (of a material or article) permitting light to pass through freely
60. give app_____le examples *adj.* fit or suitable to be applied; having relevance to a person or thing
61. ri_____le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
62. sports g__r *n.* a toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion; a set of tools, equipment, or other items for a particular purpose
63. 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
64. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
65. h__e intuition *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
66. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

ANSWERS: 58. anticipate, 59. transparent, 60. applicable, 61. ridicule, 62. gear, 63. ecologist, 64. interconnect, 65. hone, 66. brink

67. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
68. em___e as a butterfly *v.* to move out of or away from something and become visible
69. gov_____nt bureaucracy *n.* the group of people with authority to control a country or state
70. freedom of re_____on *n.* a deep conviction in a supernatural power that controls human destiny
71. fierce ri_____y *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
72. a seafaring na____n *n.* a large organized community of people living in a particular country or region and having a particular culture
73. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
74. cr__t manufacture *n.* an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands
75. ol__e oil *n.* a small green or black fruit with a bitter taste that is eaten or used to produce oil or a tree on which this fruit grows
76. single et___c group *adj.* relating or belonging to a group of people who share a cultural tradition
77. in_____ly cope with *adv.* immediately
78. be killed in_____ly *adv.* immediately

ANSWERS: 67. overwhelm, 68. emerge, 69. government, 70. religion, 71. rivalry, 72. nation, 73. nod, 74. craft, 75. olive, 76. ethnic, 77. instantly, 78. instantly

79. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
80. marine ec_____em *n.* all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment
81. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
82. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
83. di_____ar after a week *v.* to cease to exist or be visible
84. re_____on sociology *n.* a deep conviction in a supernatural power that controls human destiny
85. a mi_____ty position *n.* the smaller part of a group, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole; a period before adult legal age
86. ol___e branch *n.* a small green or black fruit with a bitter taste that is eaten or used to produce oil or a tree on which this fruit grows
87. end_____ed ecosystem *adj.* at risk of extinction because it is facing significant threats
88. al___e plant *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain
89. et___c minority *adj.* relating or belonging to a group of people who share a cultural tradition

ANSWERS: 79. nod, 80. ecosystem, 81. excite, 82. overwhelm, 83. disappear, 84. religion, 85. minority, 86. olive, 87. endangered, 88. alpine, 89. ethnic

90. re_____e his thirst *v.* to make something burdensome, unpleasant, or painful less severe
91. en_____ge antisocial behavior *v.* to give someone support, confidence, or hope; to persuade someone to do or continue to do something by making it easier for them and making them believe it is a good thing to do
92. na____n-state *n.* a large organized community of people living in a particular country or region and having a particular culture
93. s__k a lot of capital *v.* to submerge or go down below the surface of a liquid or substance; to decline or deteriorate; to cause something to go down into a liquid substance or sink into something else
94. official sta_____cs *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
95. na____e to Africa *adj.* connecting with or describing someone's birth country or place of birth, or someone born in a specific country or place
96. brink of ext_____on *n.* the complete disappearance of a species from the earth
97. permafrost te_____n *n.* the physical features of a piece of land, including hills, valleys, rivers, and forests
98. a qu_____r mile *n.* one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion

ANSWERS: 90. relieve, 91. encourage, 92. nation, 93. sink, 94. statistics, 95. native, 96. extinction, 97. terrain, 98. quarter

99. re____e stress *v.* to make something burdensome, unpleasant, or painful less severe
100. z__m lens *v.* to move along very quickly; (noun) the act of rising upward into the air
101. end_____ed species *adj.* at risk of extinction because it is facing significant threats
102. un_____le a situation *v.* to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain
103. a g__r change lever *n.* a toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion; a set of tools, equipment, or other items for a particular purpose
104. mo_____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
105. fail to show co_____sy *n.* polite behavior or remark that shows respect for other people
106. f_e calculation *n.* a sum of money charged for a particular service
107. al____e region *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain
108. em_____e an opportunity *v.* to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection

ANSWERS: 99. relieve, 100. zoom, 101. endangered, 102. untangle, 103. gear, 104. mosquito, 105. courtesy, 106. fee, 107. alpine, 108. embrace

109. sp___e of influence *n.* a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
110. in_____nt attack *adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency
111. the world pr_____re *n.* the first public performance of a play, film, or piece of music, or the opening of a show or exhibition
112. become increasingly com_____ed *adj.* involving a lot of different things or parts in a way that is difficult to understand or analyze
113. vi_____t incident *adj.* involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something
114. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
115. de_____p a skill *v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created
116. administrative pr_____on *n.* the act of providing or supplying something; a clause in a document or law that specifies a particular requirement or condition
117. end of the first qu_____r *n.* one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion

ANSWERS: 109. sphere, 110. insurgent, 111. premiere, 112. complicated, 113. violent, 114. visualize, 115. develop, 116. provision, 117. quarter

118. su___e leather *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
119. accordance with app_____le law *adj.* fit or suitable to be applied; having relevance to a person or thing
120. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
121. a mi_____ry operation *adj.* relating to or characteristic of members of the armed forces; of or relating to war or warfare
122. tra_____nt crystal *adj.* easy to perceive, detect, or understand; (of a material or article) permitting light to pass through freely
123. cr__t arts of Japan *n.* an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands
124. ec_____y class *n.* the system by which a country or region produces manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel
125. bachelor's de___e *n.* a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment
126. a com_____ed process *adj.* involving a lot of different things or parts in a way that is difficult to understand or analyze

ANSWERS: 118. supple, 119. applicable, 120. interconnect, 121. military, 122. transparent, 123. craft, 124. economy, 125. degree, 126. complicated

127. business sp___e *n.* a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity
128. en_____ge a sense of affinity *v.* to give someone support, confidence, or hope; to persuade someone to do or continue to do something by making it easier for them and making them believe it is a good thing to do
129. co_____te environment *adj.* of or relating to a large company
130. military st_____gy *n.* a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
131. act_____le advice *adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies
132. co_____te right *adj.* of or relating to a large company
133. victim of a vi_____t crime *adj.* involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something
134. a profound in_____t *n.* the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like
135. in_____ce the daily life *n.* the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
136. h__e abilities *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

ANSWERS: 127. sphere, 128. encourage, 129. corporate, 130. strategy, 131. actionable, 132. corporate, 133. violent, 134. insight, 135. influence, 136. hone

137. sta_____cs for cancer *n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
138. develop a st_____gy *n.* a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
139. ch__n reaction *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
140. a life of sim_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do
141. refined sim_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do
142. in_____ce a child's future *n.* the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
143. 3D di_____m *n.* a simplified illustration of the appearance, structure, or workings of something
144. ha_____ss of treatment *n.* the quality or state of being unpleasantly rough, severe, or stern; the degree to which something is difficult to endure; the unpleasantness of a sound or tone
145. pr_____re of the theater *n.* the first public performance of a play, film, or piece of music, or the opening of a show or exhibition
146. re___e a message *v.* to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

ANSWERS: 137. statistics, 138. strategy, 139. chain, 140. simplicity, 141. simplicity, 142. influence, 143. diagram, 144. harshness, 145. premiere, 146. relate

147. the great di_____ry of the century *n.* the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
148. ri_____y among airlines *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
149. act_____le steps *adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies
150. a mi_____ry leader *adj.* relating to or characteristic of members of the armed forces; of or relating to war or warfare
151. pa__h of grass *n.* a small piece of material or fabric used to repair or reinforce a tear, hole, or damaged area; a small plot of land used for cultivation or a specific purpose
152. po__y tea *n.* a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives
153. attract br__d attention *adj.* very wide; general
154. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
155. ca___n dioxide *n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals

ANSWERS: 147. discovery, 148. rivalry, 149. actionable, 150. military, 151. patch, 152. poppy, 153. broad, 154. excite, 155. carbon

156. un_____le a problem *v.* to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain
157. in a di_____m *n.* a simplified illustration of the appearance, structure, or workings of something
158. co_____sy call *n.* polite behavior or remark that shows respect for other people

ANSWERS: 156. untangle, 157. diagram, 158. courtesy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The report highlighted several _____ recommendations for improving customer satisfaction.
adj. capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies
2. The _____ academy was known for its strict discipline and training.
adj. relating to or characteristic of members of the armed forces; of or relating to war or warfare
3. He _____ back in time to the soccer game.
v. to move along very quickly; (noun) the act of rising upward into the air
4. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
5. We can _____ this possibility from those consumptions.
v. to remove or get rid of someone or something
6. 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
7. The focus of these initiatives is to make the financial system more _____.
adj. easy to perceive, detect, or understand; (of a material or article) permitting light to pass through freely

ANSWERS: 1. actionable, 2. military, 3. zoomed, 4. visualize, 5. eliminate, 6. ecologist, 7. transparent

8. The lawyer's ____ for the case was \$10,000.
n. a sum of money charged for a particular service
9. The mountainous _____ was rough and rocky.
n. the physical features of a piece of land, including hills, valleys, rivers, and forests
10. Her research team made an important _____.
n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
11. This regulation is not _____ to minors.
adj. fit or suitable to be applied; having relevance to a person or thing
12. Different cultures have different ways of expressing _____.
n. polite behavior or remark that shows respect for other people
13. His hometown was where he first acquired the _____ of wood carving.
n. an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands
14. The coach's _____ towards the team was seen as motivating and demoralizing by others.
n. the quality or state of being unpleasantly rough, severe, or stern; the degree to which something is difficult to endure; the unpleasantness of a sound or tone
15. They watched the train _____ into the distance.
v. to cease to exist or be visible
16. He did _____ pen-and-ink drawings in just a few days.
adj. involving a lot of different things or parts in a way that is difficult to understand or analyze

ANSWERS: 8. fee, 9. terrain, 10. discovery, 11. applicable, 12. courtesy, 13. craft, 14. harshness, 15. disappear, 16. complicated

17. The former emperor had a particular _____ even after he abdicated.
n. the ability to affect someone's or something's character, growth, or behavior, or the effect itself
18. The woods _____ the house.
v. to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection
19. I am considering what I should do to _____ him.
v. to persuade someone or make someone believe that something is true
20. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
21. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
22. The government forces fought brutally against the _____ rebels in the remote region.
adj. rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency
23. I remembered that person _____ and never forgot.
adv. immediately
24. The _____ of this bird is freshwater areas and saltwater marshes.
n. the type of natural environment in which an organism or group usually lives or occurs

ANSWERS: 17. influence, 18. embrace, 19. convince, 20. nodded, 21. excited, 22. insurgent, 23. instantly, 24. habitat

25. The _____ between the two teams was intense and heated.
- n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
26. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.
- n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
27. 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
28. They enjoyed reading under the _____ trees.
- n.* a small green or black fruit with a bitter taste that is eaten or used to produce oil or a tree on which this fruit grows
29. Trees absorb _____ dioxide and give off oxygen.
- n.* a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
30. The _____ demonstrate that poverty and unemployment are genuine problems.
- n.* the discipline that concerns the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data
31. The athlete worked with a coach to _____ her techniques and improve her performance.
- v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
32. The unemployment rate in the first _____ was 2.3 percentage points higher than in the previous.
- n.* one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion

ANSWERS: 25. rivalry, 26. mosquitos, 27. supple, 28. olive, 29. carbon, 30. statistics, 31. hone, 32. quarter

33. He accumulated wealth across a _____ spectrum of assets.

adj. very wide; general

34. Our system can now _____ with other databases.

v. to connect similar things

35. We went on an exhilarating _____ adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

adj. relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

36. The _____ of the earth is divided into several layers including the crust, mantle, and core.

n. a round object or geometric shape that is three-dimensional and symmetrical around a central point; a particular aspect or scope of life or activity

37. Human conservation efforts often fail unexpectedly because they disturb the balance of the _____.

n. all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment

38. We must _____ a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

v. to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

39. He is drawing a _____ illustrating how the equipment operates.

n. a simplified illustration of the appearance, structure, or workings of something

ANSWERS: 33. broad, 34. interconnect, 35. alpine, 36. sphere, 37. ecosystem, 38. develop, 39. diagram

40. The federal _____ is planning to increase taxes for the next fiscal year.
n. the group of people with authority to control a country or state
41. He liked the car because of the _____ of the design.
n. the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do
42. The _____ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.
n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
43. She received her _____ in psychology from the university.
n. a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment
44. The _____ of the country is struggling due to the recent political instability.
n. the system by which a country or region produces manages, and distributes goods and services, including the money and finances involved in these activities; (of an airline) the lowest-priced, most basic option for seating in commercial travel
45. The protesters became _____ when the police tried to disperse them.
adj. involving or caused by physical force or aggression against someone or something
46. The _____ of the dinosaurs is thought to have been caused by an asteroid impact.
n. the complete disappearance of a species from the earth

ANSWERS: 40. government, 41. simplicity, 42. ridicule, 43. degree, 44. economy, 45. violent, 46. extinction

47. During colonial eras, new migratory patterns _____.

v. to move out of or away from something and become visible

48. It's notoriously challenging to _____ birth rates.

v. to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience

49. The vegetation here is almost wholly _____.

adj. connecting with or describing someone's birth country or place of birth, or someone born in a specific country or place

50. The project's _____ made it difficult for the team to complete it on time.

n. the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand

51. The new law includes _____ for increased penalties for repeat offenders.

n. the act of providing or supplying something; a clause in a document or law that specifies a particular requirement or condition

52. They selected a gorgeous diamond _____ ring.

n. a mutual promise to marry someone; an agreement to do something, especially at a particular time

53. That adventurer traveled in _____ of buried treasure.

n. a long or challenging search for something

54. The _____ of the new movie was held at the city's main theater.

n. the first public performance of a play, film, or piece of music, or the opening of a show or exhibition

ANSWERS: 47. emerged, 48. predict, 49. native, 50. complexity, 51. provisions, 52. engagement, 53. quest, 54. premiere

55. The _____ office has decided to lay off 10% of the workforce.

adj. of or relating to a large company

56. She checked her _____ before embarking on the hike.

n. a toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion; a set of tools, equipment, or other items for a particular purpose

57. Each _____ group has its unique rituals.

adj. relating or belonging to a group of people who share a cultural tradition

58. I need to _____ this knot before using this rope piece.

v. to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain

59. Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing _____.

n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

60. The medicine _____ his headache, and he felt much better.

v. to make something burdensome, unpleasant, or painful less severe

61. She wore a red _____ on her lapel to honor the veterans.

n. a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives

62. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 55. corporate, 56. gear, 57. ethnic, 58. untangle, 59. strategy, 60. relieved, 61. poppy, 62. overwhelm

63. The rain and thunder are _____ today.

adj. stupid or not sensible; very angry

64. They _____ customers with a premium for loyal patronage.

v. to give someone support, confidence, or hope; to persuade someone to do or continue to do something by making it easier for them and making them believe it is a good thing to do

65. The abandoned ship slowly began to _____ into the murky waters of the harbor.

v. to submerge or go down below the surface of a liquid or substance; to decline or deteriorate; to cause something to go down into a liquid substance or sink into something else

66. He tried to _____ his experience to the group, but they couldn't understand.

v. to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

67. The government has implemented policies to protect the habitat of _____ animals.

adj. at risk of extinction because it is facing significant threats

68. I need to sew a _____ onto my jeans that ripped.

n. a small piece of material or fabric used to repair or reinforce a tear, hole, or damaged area; a small plot of land used for cultivation or a specific purpose

69. We _____ heavy snowfall tomorrow.

v. to expect or predict that something will happen; to tell in advance

70. He spent hours trying to _____ the ancient text.

v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

ANSWERS: 63. crazy, 64. encouraged, 65. sink, 66. relate, 67. endangered, 68. patch, 69. anticipate, 70. decipher

71. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

72. The _____ of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

n. a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

73. Some ethnic _____ groups experienced discrimination in society.

n. the smaller part of a group, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole; a period before adult legal age

74. The _____ on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.

n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle

75. We gained various _____ by analyzing the vast amount of data owned by the company.

n. the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like

76. Their _____ strictly prohibits them from drinking or gambling.

n. a deep conviction in a supernatural power that controls human destiny

77. I bought a delicious _____ from the bakery for dinner.

n. a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

78. The _____ of Japan is known for its unique culture and advanced technology.

n. a large organized community of people living in a particular country or region and having a particular culture

ANSWERS: 71. brink, 72. plot, 73. minority, 74. chain, 75. insights, 76. religion, 77. baguette, 78. nation

79. The economy becomes more volatile and less _____.

adj. capable of being known, seen or declared in advance

ANSWERS: 79. predictable