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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gero Miesenboeck: Re-engineering the brain | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

doppelganger

n. a person who closely resembles or is a double of another person, often used to describe an uncanny similarity in appearance between two individuals

synonym : look-alike, twin, replica

(1) celebrity **doppelganger**, (2) evil **doppelganger**

The actress's **doppelganger** was hired to perform the more dangerous stunts in the film.

android

n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

synonym : droid, cyborg

(1) household **android**, (2) **Android** tablet

The lab is developing an **android** robot that assists in dangerous construction work.

saga

n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes

synonym : epic, tale, chronicle

(1) fantasy **saga**, (2) historical **saga**

The epic **saga** of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.

plexiglas

n. a transparent plastic material that is often used as a substitute for glass in various applications, such as airplane windows and aquariums

synonym : acrylic, lucite, perspex

(1) **plexiglas** partition, (2) **plexiglas** window

The **plexiglass** shield protected the workers from flying debris.

sinister

adj. giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen

synonym : ominous, foreboding, evil

(1) **sinister** look, (2) in **sinister** terms

The dark clouds in the sky gave off a **sinister** feeling.

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**.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym : hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

fir

n. a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that

stand upright on the branches

synonym : pine, spruce, cedar

(1) **fir** branch, (2) **fir** forest

The smell of fresh **fir** trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.

cockroach

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym : roach

(1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

breaker

n. a person or thing that breaks, disrupts, or interrupts; a large wave that collapses or breaks forcefully onto the shore or against an obstacle

synonym : wave, interrupter, obstruction

(1) record **breaker**, (2) tide **breaker**

He used a circuit **breaker** to restore power to the entire building.

rearrange

v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

synonym : readjust, reorganize, reconstruct

(1) **rearrange** the furniture, (2) **rearrange** his schedule

Please **rearrange** these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym : decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

grandiose

adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way

synonym: elaborate, impressive, grandiloquent

(1) **grandiose** project, (2) make a **grandiose** claim

The **grandiose** mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.

unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

synonym: separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

tinker

v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

synonym: fiddle, play, fix

(1) **tinker** with the bill, (2) **tinker** with the settings

He spent the afternoon **tinkering** with his car engine.

illustrious

adj. famous, respected, and honored

synonym: famous, renowned, distinguished

(1) an **illustrious** achievement, (2) **illustrious** figure

The **illustrious** scientist won the Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking work.

twitch

v. to make a sudden and quick movement with a part of the body; (noun) a sudden, small, jerky movement of a muscle or part of the body

synonym: spasm, jerk, flinch

(1) **twitch** at his sleeve, (2) **twitch** of an eye

She couldn't stop her leg from **twitching** nervously.

lumbar

adj. of or relating to the lower part of the spine, between the ribcage and the pelvis

synonym: lower back

(1) **lumbar** pain, (2) **lumbar** anesthesia

The **lumbar** region of the spine is susceptible to pain and injury.

rev *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

nugget *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food

synonym: chunk, clod, clump

(1) a gold **nugget**, (2) **nugget** of truth

It took a few weeks to extract the **nugget** of information from those complicated sources.

drawback *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

synonym: disadvantage, defect, weakness

(1) the **drawback** of his method, (2) one of the main **drawbacks**

He pointed out all the **drawbacks** to our plan.

diffuse *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place

synonym: spread, scatter

(1) **diffuse** bleeding, (2) **diffuse** cloud

Direct lighting is preferable to **diffuse** lighting when reading.

fabricate *v.* to make something, especially by assembling parts or constructing it from raw materials; to invent and present something false as true or real to deceive someone

synonym: manufacture, assemble, falsify

(1) **fabricate** a chemical, (2) **fabricate** an excuse

The detective discovered that the witness had **fabricated** her story about the crime.

spontaneously

adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

synonym : impromptu, automatically, immediately

(1) recover **spontaneously** after five days, (2) this shift occurs **spontaneously**

The electrical cord **spontaneously** combusted.

gizmo

n. a small gadget or mechanical device, particularly one that is difficult to name or describe

synonym : gadget, device, contraption

(1) handy **gizmo**, (2) high-tech **gizmo**

You can find all kinds of interesting **gizmos** in this store.

miraculous

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

synonym : amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

microscopic

adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

synonym : infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

pore

n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively

synonym : stoma, foramen

(1) woody **pore** fungi, (2) **pore** over reference books

I was sweating at every **pore**.

bluish

adj. having a color that is a shade of blue

synonym : blue, azure, navy

(1) **bluish** cloth, (2) **bluish** color

The flowers had a **bluish** tint, indicating they needed to be riper.

deflect

v. to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone

synonym : deter, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **deflect** a blow, (2) **deflect** his criticism

The soccer player was able to **deflect** the ball away from the goal.

swat

v. to strike or hit someone or something with a quick, sharp blow, usually with the hand or a flat object; (noun, an acronym that stands for "Special Weapons And Tactics") specialized groups within police departments that are trained to handle high-risk operations that regular officers are not equipped to deal with

synonym : slap, smack, hit

(1) expertly **swat** back the ball, (2) **SWAT** operation

I had to **swat** away a fly that was buzzing around my head.

reflex

n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli

synonym : reaction, response, instinct

(1) **reflex** test, (2) knee **reflex**

My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the **reflex** hammer.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

- plat** *n.* a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes
synonym : map, chart, diagram
(1) **plat** book, (2) a former **plat** of farmland
The city planning department keeps detailed **plats** of all the local properties.
- headless** *adj.* having no head or lacking a head
synonym : decapitated, beheaded
(1) find his **headless** body, (2) **headless** torso
The **headless** corpse was found in the alleyway behind the nightclub.
- groom** *v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat; (noun, also "bridegroom") a man who is about to be married or has recently been married
synonym : brush, comb, neaten
(1) **groom** duties, (2) **groom** a horse
I need to **groom** my dog before his fur gets too long.
- trait** *n.* a particular feature of your nature
synonym : attribute, feature, quality
(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**
Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.
- decapitate** *v.* to cut off the head of someone; to behead
synonym : behead, sever, cut off
(1) **decapitate** the enemy, (2) **decapitate** a statue
The executioner was about to **decapitate** the condemned prisoner.
- optogenetics** *n.* a branch of biotechnology that involves the use of light to control the activity of genetically modified cells or neurons in living tissue, often used in neuroscience

research

(1) **optogenetics** technique, (2) **optogenetics** manipulation
The recent advances in **optogenetics** research have paved the way for a deeper understanding of neuronal functions.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

neurobiology

n. a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion

synonym: brain science, neural science, neurology

(1) **neurobiology** research, (2) cellular **neurobiology**

The professor's research in **neurobiology** has led to groundbreaking discoveries in the field of brain science.

midpoint

n. the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points

synonym: center point, halfway point

(1) **midpoint** formula, (2) **midpoint** theorem

The **midpoint** between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.

midline

n. an imaginary line that divides something, such as a shape, object, or body, into two equal or symmetrical halves

synonym: centerline, median, halfway point

(1) **midline** incision, (2) **midline** herniation

The **midline** of a rectangle divides it into two halves.

- nag** *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
synonym : hassle, bother, badger
(1) **nag** about the minor thing, (2) **nag** political leaders
She couldn't stop **nagging** her husband to take out the trash.
- Catholic** *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church
Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.
- Jewish** *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
synonym : Judaic
(1) **Jewish** history, (2) **Jewish** culture
My friend is a **Jewish** woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.
- pep** *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
synonym : energy, enthusiasm, liveliness
(1) **pep** me up, (2) have a lot of **peps**
The coach gave a **pep** talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.
- neurotransmitter** *n.* a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
(1) **neurotransmitter** receptor, (2) **neurotransmitters** released from the brain
Endorphins are a type of **neurotransmitter** that gives a sense of well-being.
- dopamine** *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension

(1) **dopamine-inhibiting** agent, (2) antagonism of **dopamine**

The drug controls the level of **dopamine** in the brain.

sniff

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

synonym: smell, inhale, scent

(1) **sniff** the air, (2) **sniff** the perfume

The dog stopped to **sniff** around the tree, looking for something interesting.

mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym: fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

odorous

adj. having a strong or distinct smell; emitting a noticeable or pungent odor

synonym: fragrant, aromatic, smelly

(1) **odorous** gases, (2) **odorous** chemicals

The **odorous** smell coming from the garbage bin was unbearable.

cockpit

n. the area in an aircraft or spacecraft from which the pilot controls the aircraft or spacecraft

synonym: flight deck, control room, bridge

(1) navigator's **cockpit**, (2) **cockpit** ship

The pilot sat in the **cockpit** of the airplane.

evasive

adj. not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger

synonym: deceitful, ambiguous, unclear

(1) take **evasive** action, (2) an **evasive** answer

He admitted all wrongdoing without using any **evasive** words in his press conference.

zap

v. to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

synonym: destroy, kill, exterminate

(1) **zap** a huge target, (2) **zap** bar code

They provided allies with powerful weapons that could **zap** the enemy from thousands of miles away.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym: gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**

In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

exhilarating

adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

synonym: thrilling, exciting, stimulating

(1) an **exhilarating** drink, (2) **exhilarating** view

Bungee jumping was an **exhilarating** experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

evaporate

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

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

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

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. one of the main dr_____cks | <i>n.</i> a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive |
| 2. sn__f the perfume | <i>v.</i> to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath |
| 3. Je___h culture | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism |
| 4. od_____s chemicals | <i>adj.</i> having a strong or distinct smell; emitting a noticeable or pungent odor |
| 5. p__t book | <i>n.</i> a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes |
| 6. an ill_____us achievement | <i>adj.</i> famous, respected, and honored |
| 7. p__e over reference books | <i>n.</i> a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively |
| 8. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system |
| 9. r_v up the crowd | <i>n.</i> a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |

ANSWERS: 1. drawback, 2. sniff, 3. Jewish, 4. odorous, 5. plat, 6. illustrious, 7. pore, 8. neuroscience, 9. rev

10. high-tech gi__o *n.* a small gadget or mechanical device, particularly one that is difficult to name or describe
11. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
12. take ev_____e action *adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
13. neu_____ogy research *n.* a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion
14. ability to de___e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
15. mu_____om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
16. antagonism of do_____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension

ANSWERS: 10. gizmo, 11. decode, 12. evasive, 13. neurobiology, 14. decode, 15. mushroom, 16. dopamine

17. un_____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
18. bl___h color *adj.* having a color that is a shade of blue
19. made a great ma_____er *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
20. mi_____nt theorem *n.* the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
21. make a gr_____se claim *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
22. chemical tr___t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
23. ch___t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
24. an exh_____ing drink *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill
25. the Ca_____ic Church *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
26. ne___n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

ANSWERS: 17. unravel, 18. bluish, 19. maneuver, 20. midpoint, 21. grandiose, 22. trait, 23. chant, 24. exhilarating, 25. Catholic, 26. neuron

27. di_____e cloud *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
28. z_p a huge target *v.* to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force
29. ev_____te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
30. neu_____ter receptor *n.* a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
31. opt_____ics technique *n.* a branch of biotechnology that involves the use of light to control the activity of genetically modified cells or neurons in living tissue, often used in neuroscience research
32. f_r forest *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
33. de_____t a blow *v.* to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone
34. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
35. celebrity dop_____ger *n.* a person who closely resembles or is a double of another person, often used to describe an uncanny similarity in appearance between two individuals

ANSWERS: 27. diffuse, 28. zap, 29. evaporate, 30. neurotransmitter, 31. optogenetics, 32. fir, 33. deflect, 34. neuroscience, 35. doppelganger

36. p_p me up *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
37. he____ss torso *adj.* having no head or lacking a head
38. recover spo_____sly after five days *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
39. tw___h of an eye *v.* to make a sudden and quick movement with a part of the body; (noun) a sudden, small, jerky movement of a muscle or part of the body
40. go through a mir_____us change *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
41. S__T operation *v.* to strike or hit someone or something with a quick, sharp blow, usually with the hand or a flat object; (noun, an acronym that stands for "Special Weapons And Tactics") specialized groups within police departments that are trained to handle high-risk operations that regular officers are not equipped to deal with
42. mi_____nt formula *n.* the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
43. re___x test *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
44. Je___h history *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

ANSWERS: 36. pep, 37. headless, 38. spontaneously, 39. twitch, 40. miraculous, 41. swat, 42. midpoint, 43. reflex, 44. Jewish

45. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
46. opt_____ics manipulation *n.* a branch of biotechnology that involves the use of light to control the activity of genetically modified cells or neurons in living tissue, often used in neuroscience research
47. pl_____as window *n.* a transparent plastic material that is often used as a substitute for glass in various applications, such as airplane windows and aquariums
48. lu___r anesthesia *adj.* of or relating to the lower part of the spine, between the ribcage and the pelvis
49. od_____s gases *adj.* having a strong or distinct smell; emitting a noticeable or pungent odor
50. gr__m a horse *v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat; (noun, also "bridegroom") a man who is about to be married or has recently been married
51. expertly s__t back the ball *v.* to strike or hit someone or something with a quick, sharp blow, usually with the hand or a flat object; (noun, an acronym that stands for "Special Weapons And Tactics") specialized groups within police departments that are trained to handle high-risk operations that regular officers are not equipped to deal with

ANSWERS: 45. trait, 46. optogenetics, 47. plexiglas, 48. lumbar, 49. odorous, 50. groom, 51. swat

52. fantasy s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
53. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
54. ti___r with the settings *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
55. bl___h cloth *adj.* having a color that is a shade of blue
56. vi_____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
57. this shift occurs spo_____sly *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
58. record br_____r *n.* a person or thing that breaks, disrupts, or interrupts; a large wave that collapses or breaks forcefully onto the shore or against an obstacle
59. have a lot of p_ps *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
60. dec_____te a statue *v.* to cut off the head of someone; to behead
61. a former p__t of farmland *n.* a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 52. saga, 53. rev, 54. tinker, 55. bluish, 56. vibrate, 57. spontaneously, 58. breaker, 59. pep, 60. decapitate, 61. plat

62. si_____er look *adj.* giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen
63. neu_____ters released from the brain *n.* a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
64. re_____ge his schedule *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
65. do_____ne-inhibiting agent *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
66. cellular neu_____ogy *n.* a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion
67. un_____l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
68. mi_____e herniation *n.* an imaginary line that divides something, such as a shape, object, or body, into two equal or symmetrical halves
69. exh_____ing view *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

ANSWERS: 62. sinister, 63. neurotransmitter, 64. rearrange, 65. dopamine, 66. neurobiology, 67. unravel, 68. midline, 69. exhilarating

70. co_____ch killer *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
71. co_____t ship *n.* the area in an aircraft or spacecraft from which the pilot controls the aircraft or spacecraft
72. di_____e bleeding *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
73. navigator's co_____t *n.* the area in an aircraft or spacecraft from which the pilot controls the aircraft or spacecraft
74. evil dop_____ger *n.* a person who closely resembles or is a double of another person, often used to describe an uncanny similarity in appearance between two individuals
75. re_____ge the furniture *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
76. vi_____e with anger *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
77. ca_____ic in his tastes *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
78. ev_____te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
79. find his he_____ss body *adj.* having no head or lacking a head
80. historical s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes

ANSWERS: 70. cockroach, 71. cockpit, 72. diffuse, 73. cockpit, 74. doppelganger, 75. rearrange, 76. vibrate, 77. Catholic, 78. evaporate, 79. headless, 80. saga

81. knee re___x *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
82. gr__m duties *v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat; (noun, also "bridegroom") a man who is about to be married or has recently been married
83. dec_____te the enemy *v.* to cut off the head of someone; to behead
84. tw___h at his sleeve *v.* to make a sudden and quick movement with a part of the body; (noun) a sudden, small, jerky movement of a muscle or part of the body
85. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
86. an ev_____e answer *adj.* not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
87. ex_____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
88. f_r branch *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
89. have a co_____ch phobia *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

ANSWERS: 81. reflex, 82. groom, 83. decapitate, 84. twitch, 85. microscopic, 86. evasive, 87. explode, 88. fir, 89. cockroach

90. nu___t of truth *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
91. pl_____as partition *n.* a transparent plastic material that is often used as a substitute for glass in various applications, such as airplane windows and aquariums
92. political ma_____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
93. fa_____te an excuse *v.* to make something, especially by assembling parts or constructing it from raw materials; to invent and present something false as true or real to deceive someone
94. n_g about the minor thing *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
95. fa_____te a chemical *v.* to make something, especially by assembling parts or constructing it from raw materials; to invent and present something false as true or real to deceive someone
96. sn__f the air *v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

ANSWERS: 90. nugget, 91. plexiglas, 92. maneuver, 93. fabricate, 94. nag, 95. fabricate, 96. sniff

97. ex____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
98. handy gi__o *n.* a small gadget or mechanical device, particularly one that is difficult to name or describe
99. z_p bar code *v.* to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force
100. a mir_____us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
101. mi_____e incision *n.* an imaginary line that divides something, such as a shape, object, or body, into two equal or symmetrical halves
102. n_g political leaders *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
103. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
104. lu___r pain *adj.* of or relating to the lower part of the spine, between the ribcage and the pelvis
105. woody p__e fungi *n.* a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively

ANSWERS: 97. explode, 98. gizmo, 99. zap, 100. miraculous, 101. midline, 102. nag, 103. neuron, 104. lumbar, 105. pore

106. ch__t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
107. tide br____r *n.* a person or thing that breaks, disrupts, or interrupts; a large wave that collapses or breaks forcefully onto the shore or against an obstacle
108. ill____us figure *adj.* famous, respected, and honored
109. de____t his criticism *v.* to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone
110. ti____r with the bill *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
111. the dr____ck of his method *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
112. in si____er terms *adj.* giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen
113. gr____se project *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
114. mic____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
115. household an____d *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
116. mu____om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

ANSWERS: 106. chant, 107. breaker, 108. illustrious, 109. deflect, 110. tinker, 111. drawback, 112. sinister, 113. grandiose, 114. microscopic, 115. android, 116. mushroom

117. a gold nu___t

n. a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food

118. An____d tablet

n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

ANSWERS: 117. nugget, 118. android

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ shield protected the workers from flying debris.
 - n.* a transparent plastic material that is often used as a substitute for glass in various applications, such as airplane windows and aquariums

2. I had to _____ away a fly that was buzzing around my head.
 - v.* to strike or hit someone or something with a quick, sharp blow, usually with the hand or a flat object; (noun, an acronym that stands for "Special Weapons And Tactics") specialized groups within police departments that are trained to handle high-risk operations that regular officers are not equipped to deal with

3. The _____ scientist won the Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking work.
 - adj.* famous, respected, and honored

4. The lab is developing an _____ robot that assists in dangerous construction work.
 - n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

5. He spent the afternoon _____ with his car engine.
 - v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

6. Direct lighting is preferable to _____ lighting when reading.
 - adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place

7. They provided allies with powerful weapons that could _____ the enemy from thousands of miles away.
 - v.* to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

ANSWERS: 1. plexiglass, 2. swat, 3. illustrious, 4. android, 5. tinkering, 6. diffuse, 7. zap

8. The drug controls the level of _____ in the brain.
n. a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
9. Please _____ these files as we start a new project tomorrow.
v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
10. The sun will _____ the mist.
v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
11. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.
n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
12. He admitted all wrongdoing without using any _____ words in his press conference.
adj. not willing to give clear or direct answers to a question or commit to a request; avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger
13. 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
14. The _____ corpse was found in the alleyway behind the nightclub.
adj. having no head or lacking a head
15. He pointed out all the _____ to our plan.
n. a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

ANSWERS: 8. dopamine, 9. rearrange, 10. evaporate, 11. maneuver, 12. evasive, 13. neuroscience, 14. headless, 15. drawbacks

16. Bungee jumping was an _____ experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

17. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.

n. a particular feature of your nature

18. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

19. The professor's research in _____ has led to groundbreaking discoveries in the field of brain science.

n. a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion

20. The detective discovered that the witness had _____ her story about the crime.

v. to make something, especially by assembling parts or constructing it from raw materials; to invent and present something false as true or real to deceive someone

21. The dog stopped to _____ around the tree, looking for something interesting.

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

ANSWERS: 16. exhilarating, 17. traits, 18. exploded, 19. neurobiology, 20. fabricated, 21. sniff

22. The _____ region of the spine is susceptible to pain and injury.
adj. of or relating to the lower part of the spine, between the ribcage and the pelvis
23. Endorphins are a type of _____ that gives a sense of well-being.
n. a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
24. The executioner was about to _____ the condemned prisoner.
v. to cut off the head of someone; to behead
25. He used a circuit _____ to restore power to the entire building.
n. a person or thing that breaks, disrupts, or interrupts; a large wave that collapses or breaks forcefully onto the shore or against an obstacle
26. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"
n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
27. The _____ between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.
n. the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
28. My friend is a _____ woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.
adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
29. You can find all kinds of interesting _____ in this store.
n. a small gadget or mechanical device, particularly one that is difficult to name or describe

ANSWERS: 22. lumbar, 23. neurotransmitter, 24. decapitate, 25. breaker, 26. chant, 27. midpoint, 28. Jewish, 29. gizmos

30. The epic _____ of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.
n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
31. The flowers had a _____ tint, indicating they needed to be riper.
adj. having a color that is a shade of blue
32. I need to _____ my dog before his fur gets too long.
v. to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat;
(noun, also "bridegroom") a man who is about to be married or has recently been married
33. The _____ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.
n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
34. My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the _____ hammer.
n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
35. The pilot sat in the _____ of the airplane.
n. the area in an aircraft or spacecraft from which the pilot controls the aircraft or spacecraft
36. Sociologists are now interested in _____ world peace.
adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

ANSWERS: 30. saga, 31. bluish, 32. groom, 33. mushroom, 34. reflex, 35. cockpit, 36. catholic

37. The electrical cord _____ combusted.

adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

38. The smell of fresh ____ trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.

n. a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches

39. He made a _____ recovery.

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

40. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

41. The actress's _____ was hired to perform the more dangerous stunts in the film.

n. a person who closely resembles or is a double of another person, often used to describe an uncanny similarity in appearance between two individuals

42. The _____ mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.

adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way

43. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

44. The dark clouds in the sky gave off a _____ feeling.

adj. giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen

ANSWERS: 37. spontaneously, 38. fir, 39. miraculous, 40. vibrate, 41. doppelganger, 42. grandiose, 43. Cockroaches, 44. sinister

45. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
46. The _____ smell coming from the garbage bin was unbearable.
adj. having a strong or distinct smell; emitting a noticeable or pungent odor
47. She couldn't stop _____ her husband to take out the trash.
v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
48. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
49. The _____ of a rectangle divides it into two halves.
n. an imaginary line that divides something, such as a shape, object, or body, into two equal or symmetrical halves
50. I was sweating at every _____.
n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively
51. She couldn't stop her leg from _____ nervously.
v. to make a sudden and quick movement with a part of the body; (noun) a sudden, small, jerky movement of a muscle or part of the body
52. The recent advances in _____ research have paved the way for a deeper understanding of neuronal functions.
n. a branch of biotechnology that involves the use of light to control the activity of genetically modified cells or neurons in living tissue, often used in neuroscience research

ANSWERS: 45. unravel, 46. odorous, 47. nagging, 48. microscopic, 49. midline, 50. pore, 51. twitching, 52. optogenetics

53. The coach gave a ____ talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.
- n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
54. The soccer player was able to _____ the ball away from the goal.
- v.* to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone
55. The city planning department keeps detailed _____ of all the local properties.
- n.* a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes
56. It took a few weeks to extract the _____ of information from those complicated sources.
- n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
57. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
58. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
59. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.
- v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

ANSWERS: 53. pep, 54. deflect, 55. plats, 56. nugget, 57. neuron, 58. rev, 59. decode

ANSWERS: