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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Willard Wigan: Hold your breath for micro-sculpture | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

jerry

adj. a slang term referring to something that is improvised, makeshift, or of poor quality; jerry-rigged

synonym: deceptive, deceitful, dishonest

(1) **jerry-built** foundation, (2) **jerry-made** toy

The **jerry-rigged** repair was only a temporary solution to the problem.

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.

splinter

n. a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger

synonym: shard, fragment, sliver

(1) **splinter** cell, (2) remove a **splinter**

The car window shattered into a million little **splinters** during the crash.

shard

n. a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal

synonym: break, fragment, shatter

(1) broken **shard**, (2) **shard** of pottery

The artist used a **shard** of glass to create intricate designs on her sculptures.

shanty

n. a small, crudely built, usually temporary house or dwelling; often used to describe a rough or inexpensive structure

synonym: shack, hut, cabin

(1) **shanty-style** lodging, (2) makeshift **shanty**

The beach **shanty** provided temporary shelter for the stranded tourists.

merry

adj. cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood

synonym: jolly, happy, cheerful

(1) **merry-making**, (2) **merry** laughter

We had a **merry** time at the Christmas party, singing carols and drinking eggnog.

seesaw

n. a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground

synonym: teeter-totter, balance board

(1) **seesaw** motion, (2) **seesaw** effect

The children played on the **seesaw** in the park.

lad

n. a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way

synonym: boy, youth, youngster

(1) working-class **lad**, (2) local **lad**

The older man gave the young **lad** some helpful life advice.

jagged

adj. having a rough and sharply uneven surface or outline
synonym : bumpy, irregular, craggy

(1) **jagged** edges, (2) the **jagged** outline of the crags

There are several **jagged** limestone peaks throughout the mountains.

sharpen

v. to make something, usually a blade or point, sharp or sharper; to enhance or improve the clarity, focus, or effectiveness of something

synonym : hone, enhance, improve

(1) **sharpen** your focus, (2) **sharpen** a pencil

I must **sharpen** my knives before cooking to ensure precise and efficient cutting.

heartbeat

n. the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force

synonym : beat, pulse, force

(1) **heartbeat** abnormality, (2) a pounding **heartbeat**

New York is the commercial **heartbeat** of America.

inhale

v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

synonym : breathe in, take in, draw in

(1) **inhale** the smoke, (2) **inhale** the aroma

He **inhaled** deeply, trying to calm down.

tweeze

v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

synonym : pluck, pull out, extract

(1) **tweeze** unwanted hair, (2) **tweeze** hairs

She carefully **tweezed** the stray eyebrow hairs.

catapult

n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance

synonym : launcher, trebuchet, slingshot

(1) powerful **catapult**, (2) **catapult** mechanism

The army used a **catapult** to launch large rocks over the castle walls.

mite

n. a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals

synonym : speck, insect

(1) house dust **mite**, (2) a **mite** of evidence

The **mite** infestation in the old house was a serious problem for the residents.

pluck

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym : grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds

She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

cellophane

n. a thin, transparent material made from cellulose, commonly used as a packaging material or for wrapping items

synonym : plastic wrap, cling film, polyethylene film

(1) **cellophane** wrapper, (2) **cellophane** packaging

She wrapped the gift in colorful **cellophane** paper.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym : wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

drip

v. to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops

synonym : drop, drizzle, trickle

(1) **drip** liquid, (2) **drip** from the vicious wound

Water is **dripping** from the faucet.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

sculpt

v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

synonym: carve, mold, shape

(1) **sculpt** an image, (2) **sculpt** prototype

He spent hours every day **sculpting** figures out of clay.

paintbrush

n. a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle

synonym: brush, bristle brush, artist's brush

(1) **paintbrush** stroke, (2) **paintbrush** icon

She used a flat **paintbrush** to apply the final touches to the artwork.

hymn

n. a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony

synonym: psalm, song, religious song

(1) a sacred **hymn**, (2) **hymn** tune

The congregation sang the **hymn** during the service.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym: chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

aphid

n. a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies

synonym: plant louse, greenfly, blackfly

(1) **aphid** infestation, (2) **aphid** control

The **aphids** were eating all the leaves of my tomato plants.

chariot

n. a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing

(1) **chariot** builder, (2) **chariot** race

The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating **chariot** races.

flake

n. a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

synonym: chip, bit, shred

(1) **flakes** of snow, (2) **flake** graphite

She found a paint **flake** on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.

rein

n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

synonym: strap, harness, headstall

(1) tight **rein**, (2) **rein** in costs

The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the **rein** as the horse bolted.

symmetrical

adj. having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts

synonym: harmonious, balanced, proportional

(1) **symmetrical** triangle, (2) **symmetrical** pattern

This figure is **symmetrical** about the x-axis.

torch

n. a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle

synonym: flashlight, lantern, flare

(1) the **torch** of learning, (2) **torch** song

She used an electric **torch** to light her way through the dark cave.

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.

hulk

n. a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility

synonym : wreck, ruins, giant

(1) **hulk** of a warehouse, (2) **hulk-like** strength

The shipwreck's **hulk** lay scattered along the shore.

shove

v. to push someone or something in a rough way

synonym : push, jab, elbow

(1) **shove** a person aside, (2) **shove** hamburger into my mouth

He forcibly **shoved** the flyer into my bag.

grimace

v. to make a facial expression that shows pain, disgust, or discomfort; (noun) a facial expression that shows pain or disgust, marked by wrinkling of the forehead, tightness of the face, and twisting of the mouth

synonym : frown, scowl, sneer

(1) **grimace** in pain, (2) try to hide a **grimace**

I couldn't help but **grimace** when I tasted the sour milk in my cereal.

micron

n. a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms

synonym : micrometer

(1) **micron** measurements, (2) **micron** imaging
The width of a single human hair is around 100 **microns**.

plank

n. a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes

synonym : board, timber, beam

(1) oak **plank**, (2) **plank** exercise

He was ordered to walk the **plank** by the pirate captain.

scraping

n. the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

synonym : abrading, scratching, rubbing

(1) **scraping** tools, (2) metal **scraping**

The **scraping** sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.

painstaking

adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

synonym : detailed, meticulous, conscientious

(1) **painstaking** research, (2) a **painstaking** student

The training of a hawk was a **painstaking** process.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ap__d control *n.* a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies

2. in___e the aroma *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

3. tw___e hairs *v.* to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

4. ch_____t builder *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing

5. fl__es of snow *n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

6. pai_____sh stroke *n.* a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle

7. he_____at abnormality *n.* the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force

ANSWERS: 1. aphid, 2. inhale, 3. tweeze, 4. chariot, 5. flake, 6. paintbrush, 7. heartbeat

8. 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
9. to__h song *n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
10. sc____ng tools *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
11. a m__e of evidence *n.* a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals
12. remove a sp____er *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
13. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
14. mi____n measurements *n.* a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms

ANSWERS: 8. ridicule, 9. torch, 10. scraping, 11. mite, 12. splinter, 13. pluck, 14. micron

15. sh___y-style lodging *n.* a small, crudely built, usually temporary house or dwelling; often used to describe a rough or inexpensive structure
16. ca___e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
17. 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
18. gr_____e in pain *v.* to make a facial expression that shows pain, disgust, or discomfort; (noun) a facial expression that shows pain or disgust, marked by wrinkling of the forehead, tightness of the face, and twisting of the mouth
19. h___n tune *n.* a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony
20. se___w motion *n.* a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground
21. fl___e graphite *n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent
22. sh_____n your focus *v.* to make something, usually a blade or point, sharp or sharper; to enhance or improve the clarity, focus, or effectiveness of something

ANSWERS: 15. shanty, 16. carve, 17. ridicule, 18. grimace, 19. hymn, 20. seesaw, 21. flake, 22. sharpen

23. ap__d infestation *n.* a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies
24. sh_____n a pencil *v.* to make something, usually a blade or point, sharp or sharper; to enhance or improve the clarity, focus, or effectiveness of something
25. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
26. sp_____er cell *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
27. a pounding he_____at *n.* the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
28. je__y-built foundation *adj.* a slang term referring to something that is improvised, makeshift, or of poor quality; jerry-rigged
29. the to__h of learning *n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
30. me__y laughter *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
31. sh__d of pottery *n.* a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal

ANSWERS: 23. aphid, 24. sharpen, 25. blob, 26. splinter, 27. heartbeat, 28. jerry, 29. torch, 30. merry, 31. shard

32. sym_____al pattern *adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
33. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
34. a pai_____ng student *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
35. pai_____ng research *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
36. sc____t prototype *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
37. broken sh__d *n.* a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal
38. a sacred h__n *n.* a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony
39. the ja____d outline of the crags *adj.* having a rough and sharply uneven surface or outline
40. tight r__n *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
41. cel_____ne packaging *n.* a thin, transparent material made from cellulose, commonly used as a packaging material or for wrapping items

ANSWERS: 32. symmetrical, 33. electrify, 34. painstaking, 35. painstaking, 36. sculpt, 37. shard, 38. hymn, 39. jagged, 40. rein, 41. cellophane

42. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
43. h__k-like strength *n.* a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility
44. powerful ca_____lt *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
45. r__n in costs *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
46. tw___e unwanted hair *v.* to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
47. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
48. me__y-making *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood

ANSWERS: 42. pluck, 43. hulk, 44. catapult, 45. rein, 46. tweeze, 47. microscopic, 48. merry

49. working-class l_d *n.* a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
50. house dust m__e *n.* a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals
51. local l_d *n.* a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
52. ch____t race *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
53. se___w effect *n.* a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground
54. metal sc____ng *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
55. oak pl__k *n.* a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes
56. makeshift sh___y *n.* a small, crudely built, usually temporary house or dwelling; often used to describe a rough or inexpensive structure

ANSWERS: 49. lad, 50. mite, 51. lad, 52. chariot, 53. seesaw, 54. scraping, 55. plank, 56. shanty

57. h__k of a warehouse *n.* a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility
58. d__p liquid *v.* to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
59. pl__k exercise *n.* a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes
60. sym_____al triangle *adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
61. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
62. sc___t an image *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
63. d__p from the vicious wound *v.* to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
64. ja___d edges *adj.* having a rough and sharply uneven surface or outline
65. sh__e hamburger into my mouth *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
66. cel_____ne wrapper *n.* a thin, transparent material made from cellulose, commonly used as a packaging material or for wrapping items

ANSWERS: 57. hulk, 58. drip, 59. plank, 60. symmetrical, 61. microscopic, 62. sculpt, 63. drip, 64. jagged, 65. shove, 66. cellophane

67. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
68. in___e the smoke *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
69. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
70. ca_____lt mechanism *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
71. mi_____n imaging *n.* a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms
72. je__y-made toy *adj.* a slang term referring to something that is improvised, makeshift, or of poor quality; jerry-rigged
73. try to hide a gr_____e *v.* to make a facial expression that shows pain, disgust, or discomfort; (noun) a facial expression that shows pain or disgust, marked by wrinkling of the forehead, tightness of the face, and twisting of the mouth
74. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
75. pai_____sh icon *n.* a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle

ANSWERS: 67. carve, 68. inhale, 69. electrify, 70. catapult, 71. micron, 72. jerry, 73. grimace, 74. blob, 75. paintbrush

76. sh__e a person aside

v. to push someone or something in a rough way

ANSWERS: 76. shove

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The beach _____ provided temporary shelter for the stranded tourists.
 - n.* a small, crudely built, usually temporary house or dwelling; often used to describe a rough or inexpensive structure

2. I must _____ my knives before cooking to ensure precise and efficient cutting.
 - v.* to make something, usually a blade or point, sharp or sharper; to enhance or improve the clarity, focus, or effectiveness of something

3. He _____ deeply, trying to calm down.
 - v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

4. She used a flat _____ to apply the final touches to the artwork.
 - n.* a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle

5. She _____ the flowers off the bush.
 - v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

6. The artist used a _____ of glass to create intricate designs on her sculptures.
 - n.* a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal

7. I couldn't help but _____ when I tasted the sour milk in my cereal.
 - v.* to make a facial expression that shows pain, disgust, or discomfort; (noun) a facial expression that shows pain or disgust, marked by wrinkling of the forehead, tightness of the face, and twisting of the mouth

ANSWERS: 1. shanty, 2. sharpen, 3. inhaled, 4. paintbrush, 5. plucked, 6. shard, 7. grimace

8. The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating _____ races.
- n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
9. This figure is _____ about the x-axis.
- adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
10. She wrapped the gift in colorful _____ paper.
- n.* a thin, transparent material made from cellulose, commonly used as a packaging material or for wrapping items
11. New York is the commercial _____ of America.
- n.* the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
12. She found a paint _____ on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.
- n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent
13. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
14. We had a _____ time at the Christmas party, singing carols and drinking eggnog.
- adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
15. The congregation sang the _____ during the service.
- n.* a song of praise or worship, especially one in a religious service or ceremony

ANSWERS: 8. chariot, 9. symmetrical, 10. cellophane, 11. heartbeat, 12. flake, 13. electrify, 14. merry, 15. hymn

16. She used an electric _____ to light her way through the dark cave.
n. a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
17. The older man gave the young ____ some helpful life advice.
n. a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
18. Water is _____ from the faucet.
v. to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
19. The training of a hawk was a _____ process.
adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
20. There are several _____ limestone peaks throughout the mountains.
adj. having a rough and sharply uneven surface or outline
21. The _____ were eating all the leaves of my tomato plants.
n. a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can cause damage or diseases to plants, often found in large colonies
22. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
23. The children played on the _____ in the park.
n. a long, narrow board balanced on a fulcrum or pivot point, often used as a toy or play equipment in a children's playground
24. He was ordered to walk the _____ by the pirate captain.
n. a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes

ANSWERS: 16. torch, 17. lad, 18. dripping, 19. painstaking, 20. jagged, 21. aphids, 22. microscopic, 23. seesaw, 24. plank

25. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
26. The _____ sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.
n. the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
27. The _____ repair was only a temporary solution to the problem.
adj. a slang term referring to something that is improvised, makeshift, or of poor quality; jerry-rigged
28. The shipwreck's _____ lay scattered along the shore.
n. a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility
29. The width of a single human hair is around 100 _____.
n. a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms
30. The army used a _____ to launch large rocks over the castle walls.
n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance
31. She carefully _____ the stray eyebrow hairs.
v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

ANSWERS: 25. blob, 26. scraping, 27. jerry-rigged, 28. hulk, 29. microns, 30. catapult, 31. tweezed

32. The ____ infestation in the old house was a serious problem for the residents.
n. a tiny arachnid-like creature that is related to ticks and spiders and often lives as a parasite on plants or animals
33. He spent hours every day _____ figures out of clay.
v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
34. The car window shattered into a million little _____ during the crash.
n. a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
35. 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
36. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
37. The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the ____ as the horse bolted.
n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
38. He forcibly _____ the flyer into my bag.
v. to push someone or something in a rough way

ANSWERS: 32. mite, 33. sculpting, 34. splinters, 35. ridicule, 36. carved, 37. rein, 38. shoved

ANSWERS: