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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rory Sutherland: Sweat the small stuff | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

preoccupy

v. to dominate or engage the attention, thoughts, or concerns of someone to the exclusion of other things; to occupy or fill one's mind or time

synonym: obsess, engross, consume

(1) **preoccupy** his mind, (2) **preoccupy** your attention

The upcoming project will **preoccupy** most of our team's time and resources.

chateau

n. a large country house or castle in France, especially one that is the residence of a noble or titled person

synonym: castle, manor, palace

(1) **chateau** building, (2) **chateau** garden

They spent the weekend at a luxurious **chateau** in the countryside.

frown

v. to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

synonym: scowl, glare, disapprove

(1) people with **frown** faces, (2) a worried **frown**

Thinking always made him **frown**.

disproportionate

adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence

synonym : undeserved, unequal, superfluous

(1) cause **disproportionate** damage, (2) **disproportionate** amount

This big gate is **disproportionate** to the small hut.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

compulsion

n. an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit

synonym : urge, obsession, drive

(1) **compulsion** to clean, (2) resistance to **compulsion**

She felt the **compulsion** to check her phone for messages every few minutes.

herald

v. to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare

synonym : announce, proclaim, declare

(1) **herald** the news, (2) **herald** a new era

The sound of the trumpet **heralded** the arrival of the king.

lucrative

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

synonym : profitable, moneymaking, remunerative

(1) **lucrative** deal, (2) **lucrative** market

Investing in real estate can be a **lucrative** business if done correctly.

mischievous

adj. causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way

synonym: naughty, prankish, impish

(1) **mischievous** grin, (2) **mischievous** sense of humor

The **mischievous** child played pranks on his siblings all day long.

reckon

v. to think or believe something

synonym: regard, imagine, suppose

(1) hard to **reckon**, (2) **reckon** the company as a rival

He **reckons** that corruption was rampant in the regime.

heist

n. a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person

synonym: robbery, theft, rip-off

(1) **heist** man, (2) jewel **heist**

Several airport security staff were involved in the **heist**.

engrave

v. to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner

synonym: carve, inscribe, etch

(1) **engrave** initials, (2) **engrave** metal

He wanted to **engrave** his wedding ring with their initials as a lasting symbol of their love.

mezzanine

n. an intermediate story, floor, or level between two main floors in a building; a balcony or platform that overhangs the main floor area in a theater or concert hall

synonym: balcony, gallery, level

(1) our office's **mezzanine**, (2) **mezzanine** view

We sat on the **mezzanine** level to better view the concert.

renovate

v. to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair

synonym: renew, restore, revamp

(1) **renovate** a house, (2) **renovate** an office

We need to **renovate** the kitchen before moving into the new house.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym: destroy, eliminate, exterminate

(1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination

We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

inoculate

v. to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

synonym: vaccinate, immunize, protect

(1) **inoculate** against disease, (2) **inoculate** with a virus

The doctor **inoculated** the child with a vaccine.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym: in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym : encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior
Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

lentil

n. a small, flat, round legume that is cooked and often used in soups, stews, salads, and other dishes, and which is a good source of protein, iron, and other nutrients

synonym : pulse, legume, bean

(1) **lentil** soup, (2) **lentil** salad

I made a hearty stew for dinner tonight with **lentils**, vegetables, and spices.

aggrandize

v. to make someone or something appear more important, powerful, or successful than they are; to exaggerate or embellish someone or something's achievements, reputation, or status

synonym : augment, enhance, magnify

(1) **aggrandize** a story, (2) **aggrandize** the company's reputation

The CEO is trying to **aggrandize** his power by buying out rival companies.

proportionate

adj. having a proper or suitable balance in size, amount, or degree; corresponding or in proportion to something else

synonym : proportional, commensurate, balanced

(1) **proportionate** response, (2) **proportionate** representation

The judge ruled that the punishment be **proportionate** to the crime committed.

entail

v. to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something

synonym : involve, necessitate, require

(1) **entail** legal consequences, (2) **entail** risks

The job offer **entails** a lot of responsibility and hard work.

catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

synonym : fatal, disastrous, destructive

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

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

courteous

adj. polite, respectful, and considerate in behavior; showing good manners and civility

synonym : polite, respectful, gracious

(1) **courteous** manner, (2) **courteous** reply

The **courteous** salesperson greeted each customer with a warm smile.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym : frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

steppe

n. a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America

synonym : prairie, savannah, grassland

(1) **steppe** climate, (2) barren **steppe**

The nomadic tribes set up camp on the vast **steppe**.

gridlock

n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

synonym: traffic jam, standstill, impasse

(1) **gridlock** situation, (2) political **gridlock**

The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to **gridlock** on the highways.

preoccupied

adj. having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

synonym: absorbed, engrossed, occupied

(1) **preoccupied** idea, (2) **preoccupied** with other things

He was **preoccupied** with work and didn't notice me.

anus

n. the opening at the end of the digestive tract through which feces are discharged; the outlet of the rectum

synonym: rectum, back passage, bottom

(1) **anus** fissure, (2) **anus** hygiene

He felt a pain in his **anus** after a long bike ride.

disparity

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

synonym: difference, inequality, gap

(1) the **disparity** between theory and reality, (2) income **disparity**

There is a significant **disparity** in pay between men and women in the company.

justifiable

adj. capable of being justified or explained; reasonable or merited in light of the circumstances or supporting evidence

synonym: reasonable, valid, tenable

(1) **justifiable** reason, (2) **justifiable** concern

His actions were **justifiable** given the circumstances he was facing.

envy

v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

synonym : covet, resent, grudge

(1) **envy** his success, (2) feeling **envy** toward him
I can't help but **envy** my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

climatology

n. the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects

synonym : climate science, meteorology

(1) **climatology** research, (2) marine **climatology**
Climatology data shows that the Arctic has been warming faster than other regions of the world.

disproportionately

adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

synonym : excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

indecenty

n. behavior or language that is considered morally offensive or inappropriate in public; behavior that is vulgar, obscene, or offensive to common decency

synonym : impropriety, indecorum, lewdness

(1) vulgar **indecenty**, (2) **indecenty** accusation

The **indecenty** of the comedian's jokes offended many in the audience.

hasty

adj. done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

synonym : rushed, impulsive, prompt

(1) a **hasty** temper, (2) **hasty** commitment

The **hasty** conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.

outsource

v. to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure

synonym : delegate, contract out, farm out

(1) **outsource** a non-core function, (2) **outsource** to India

The company decided to **outsource** its IT services to a third-party provider.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

extravagant

adj. exceeding the bounds of reason or necessity; wildly excessive; lavish

synonym : excessive, lavish, indulgent

(1) **extravagant** expenses, (2) **extravagant** lifestyle

The wedding was an **extravagant** affair with a guest list of over 500 people.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym : legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

comprehensible

adj. able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable

synonym : understandable, intelligible, clear

(1) **comprehensible** language, (2) **comprehensible** to everyone

The textbook explanation made the difficult concept **comprehensible** to the students.

quadrant

n. a quarter of a circle or sphere or any of the four parts of an area divided by two intersecting lines or planes

synonym : section, division, sector

(1) Northeast **quadrant**, (2) **quadrant** chart

The map was divided into four **quadrants** to examine the geographical region closely.

woe

n. significant problems or troubles; great unhappiness

synonym : anguish, despair, suffering

(1) economic **woe**, (2) full of **woe**

Recurrent financial **woes** hampered his subsequent career.

Session 2: Spelling

1. dis_____ely affected *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
2. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
3. a ha__y temper *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
4. ou_____ce a non-core function *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
5. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
6. re___n the company as a rival *v.* to think or believe something
7. feeling e__y toward him *v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
8. a__s fissure *n.* the opening at the end of the digestive tract through which feces are discharged; the outlet of the rectum

ANSWERS: 1. disproportionately, 2. fascinate, 3. hasty, 4. outsource, 5. embarrass, 6. reckon, 7. envy, 8. anus

9. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
10. ou_____ce to India *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
11. com_____on to clean *n.* an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit
12. en_____e metal *v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner
13. er_____te racial discrimination *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
14. jus_____le concern *adj.* capable of being justified or explained; reasonable or merited in light of the circumstances or supporting evidence
15. qu_____nt chart *n.* a quarter of a circle or sphere or any of the four parts of an area divided by two intersecting lines or planes
16. e__y his success *v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
17. co_____us manner *adj.* polite, respectful, and considerate in behavior; showing good manners and civility

ANSWERS: 9. writ, 10. outsource, 11. compulsion, 12. engrave, 13. eradicate, 14. justifiable, 15. quadrant, 16. envy, 17. courteous

18. Northeast qu____nt *n.* a quarter of a circle or sphere or any of the four parts of an area divided by two intersecting lines or planes
19. mis_____us sense of humor *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
20. co_____us reply *adj.* polite, respectful, and considerate in behavior; showing good manners and civility
21. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
22. re_____te an office *v.* to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair
23. dis_____ate amount *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
24. le___l soup *n.* a small, flat, round legume that is cooked and often used in soups, stews, salads, and other dishes, and which is a good source of protein, iron, and other nutrients
25. cli_____gy research *n.* the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
26. pre_____ed idea *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

ANSWERS: 18. quadrant, 19. mischievous, 20. courteous, 21. institutionalize, 22. renovate, 23. disproportionate, 24. lentil, 25. climatology, 26. preoccupied

27. jus_____le reason *adj.* capable of being justified or explained; reasonable or merited in light of the circumstances or supporting evidence
28. people with fr__n faces *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
29. a__s hygiene *n.* the opening at the end of the digestive tract through which feces are discharged; the outlet of the rectum
30. me_____ne view *n.* an intermediate story, floor, or level between two main floors in a building; a balcony or platform that overhangs the main floor area in a theater or concert hall
31. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
32. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
33. in_____cy accusation *n.* behavior or language that is considered morally offensive or inappropriate in public; behavior that is vulgar, obscene, or offensive to common decency
34. pr_____py your attention *v.* to dominate or engage the attention, thoughts, or concerns of someone to the exclusion of other things; to occupy or fill one's mind or time
35. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
36. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 27. justifiable, 28. frown, 29. anus, 30. mezzanine, 31. fascinate, 32. writ, 33. indecency, 34. preoccupy, 35. incentivize, 36. disrupt

37. le___l salad *n.* a small, flat, round legume that is cooked and often used in soups, stews, salads, and other dishes, and which is a good source of protein, iron, and other nutrients
38. agg_____ze the company's reputation *v.* to make someone or something appear more important, powerful, or successful than they are; to exaggerate or embellish someone or something's achievements, reputation, or status
39. ext_____nt lifestyle *adj.* exceeding the bounds of reason or necessity; wildly excessive; lavish
40. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
41. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
42. in_____te with a virus *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease
43. our office's me_____ne *n.* an intermediate story, floor, or level between two main floors in a building; a balcony or platform that overhangs the main floor area in a theater or concert hall
44. he__t man *n.* a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person
45. ext_____nt expenses *adj.* exceeding the bounds of reason or necessity; wildly excessive; lavish
46. a worried fr__n *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

ANSWERS: 37. lentil, 38. aggrandize, 39. extravagant, 40. creditor, 41. creditor, 42. inoculate, 43. mezzanine, 44. heist, 45. extravagant, 46. frown

47. hard to re___n *v.* to think or believe something
48. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
49. political gr____ck *n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
50. lu_____ve market *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
51. cat_____hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
52. full of w_e *n.* significant problems or troubles; great unhappiness
53. the di_____ty between theory and reality *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
54. ha__y commitment *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
55. gr____ck situation *n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
56. victim of cat_____hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
57. mis_____us grin *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way

ANSWERS: 47. reckon, 48. incentivize, 49. gridlock, 50. lucrative, 51. catastrophic, 52. woe, 53. disparity, 54. hasty, 55. gridlock, 56. catastrophic, 57. mischievous

58. jewel he__t *n.* a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person
59. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
60. er_____te the deficit *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
61. in_____te against disease *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease
62. se_____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
63. he___d the news *v.* to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare
64. com_____ble to everyone *adj.* able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
65. income di_____ty *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
66. marine cli_____gy *n.* the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
67. dis_____ely high *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
68. pre_____ed with other things *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

ANSWERS: 58. heist, 59. moth, 60. eradicate, 61. inoculate, 62. secondly, 63. herald, 64. comprehensible, 65. disparity, 66. climatology, 67. disproportionately, 68. preoccupied

69. pro_____ate response *adj.* having a proper or suitable balance in size, amount, or degree; corresponding or in proportion to something else
70. en_____e initials *v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner
71. en___l legal consequences *v.* to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something
72. ch_____u garden *n.* a large country house or castle in France, especially one that is the residence of a noble or titled person
73. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
74. resistance to com_____on *n.* an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit
75. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
76. com_____ble language *adj.* able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
77. se_____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
78. en___l risks *v.* to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something

ANSWERS: 69. proportionate, 70. engrave, 71. entail, 72. chateau, 73. terrifying, 74. compulsion, 75. embarrass, 76. comprehensible, 77. secondly, 78. entail

79. lu_____ve deal *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
80. st___e climate *n.* a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America
81. pr_____py his mind *v.* to dominate or engage the attention, thoughts, or concerns of someone to the exclusion of other things; to occupy or fill one's mind or time
82. agg_____ze a story *v.* to make someone or something appear more important, powerful, or successful than they are; to exaggerate or embellish someone or something's achievements, reputation, or status
83. pro_____ate representation *adj.* having a proper or suitable balance in size, amount, or degree; corresponding or in proportion to something else
84. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
85. re_____te a house *v.* to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair
86. he___d a new era *v.* to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare

ANSWERS: 79. lucrative, 80. steppe, 81. preoccupy, 82. aggrandize, 83. proportionate, 84. terrifying, 85. renovate, 86. herald

87. cause dis_____ate damage *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
88. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
89. vulgar in_____cy *n.* behavior or language that is considered morally offensive or inappropriate in public; behavior that is vulgar, obscene, or offensive to common decency
90. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
91. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
92. barren st___e *n.* a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America
93. ch_____u building *n.* a large country house or castle in France, especially one that is the residence of a noble or titled person
94. economic w_e *n.* significant problems or troubles; great unhappiness

ANSWERS: 87. disproportionate, 88. disrupt, 89. indecency, 90. institutionalize, 91. moth, 92. steppe, 93. chateau, 94. woe

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to _____ on the highways.
n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
2. The textbook explanation made the difficult concept _____ to the students.
adj. able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
3. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
4. This big gate is _____ to the small hut.
adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
5. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
6. The _____ conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.
adj. done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
7. Thinking always made him _____.
v. to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

ANSWERS: 1. gridlock, 2. comprehensible, 3. fascinated, 4. disproportionate, 5. terrifying, 6. hasty, 7. frown

8. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
9. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
10. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
11. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
12. The sound of the trumpet _____ the arrival of the king.
v. to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare
13. The company decided to _____ its IT services to a third-party provider.
v. to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
14. Recurrent financial _____ hampered his subsequent career.
n. significant problems or troubles; great unhappiness
15. The job offer _____ a lot of responsibility and hard work.
v. to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something

ANSWERS: 8. moth, 9. secondly, 10. creditor, 11. embarrass, 12. heralded, 13. outsource, 14. woes, 15. entails

16. The _____ salesperson greeted each customer with a warm smile.
adj. polite, respectful, and considerate in behavior; showing good manners and civility
17. The map was divided into four _____ to examine the geographical region closely.
n. a quarter of a circle or sphere or any of the four parts of an area divided by two intersecting lines or planes
18. _____ data shows that the Arctic has been warming faster than other regions of the world.
n. the scientific study of climate and weather patterns and their causes and effects
19. We sat on the _____ level to better view the concert.
n. an intermediate story, floor, or level between two main floors in a building; a balcony or platform that overhangs the main floor area in a theater or concert hall
20. His actions were _____ given the circumstances he was facing.
adj. capable of being justified or explained; reasonable or merited in light of the circumstances or supporting evidence
21. They spent the weekend at a luxurious _____ in the countryside.
n. a large country house or castle in France, especially one that is the residence of a noble or titled person
22. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was _____.
adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
23. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.
v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

ANSWERS: 16. courteous, 17. quadrants, 18. Climatology, 19. mezzanine, 20. justifiable, 21. chateau, 22. catastrophic, 23. incentivize

24. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.
- n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
25. The judge ruled that the punishment be _____ to the crime committed.
- adj.* having a proper or suitable balance in size, amount, or degree; corresponding or in proportion to something else
26. Several airport security staff were involved in the _____.
- n.* a crime in which expensive items are illegally and frequently violently removed from a location or person
27. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
- n.* a written legal order or command
28. The CEO is trying to _____ his power by buying out rival companies.
- v.* to make someone or something appear more important, powerful, or successful than they are; to exaggerate or embellish someone or something's achievements, reputation, or status
29. He wanted to _____ his wedding ring with their initials as a lasting symbol of their love.
- v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner
30. We are trying to _____ this disease from the world.
- v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

ANSWERS: 24. disparity, 25. proportionate, 26. heist, 27. writ, 28. aggrandize, 29. engrave, 30. eradicate

31. The rich can often _____ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

32. The _____ of the comedian's jokes offended many in the audience.

n. behavior or language that is considered morally offensive or inappropriate in public; behavior that is vulgar, obscene, or offensive to common decency

33. The wedding was an _____ affair with a guest list of over 500 people.

adj. exceeding the bounds of reason or necessity; wildly excessive; lavish

34. We need to _____ the kitchen before moving into the new house.

v. to improve or restore something to a better or more modern condition; to revamp or update something old, outdated, or in disrepair

35. The _____ child played pranks on his siblings all day long.

adj. causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way

36. I made a hearty stew for dinner tonight with _____ vegetables, and spices.

n. a small, flat, round legume that is cooked and often used in soups, stews, salads, and other dishes, and which is a good source of protein, iron, and other nutrients

37. She felt the _____ to check her phone for messages every few minutes.

n. an irresistible urge or impulse to do something, often resulting from internal or external pressures or forces of habit

38. He felt a pain in his _____ after a long bike ride.

n. the opening at the end of the digestive tract through which feces are discharged; the outlet of the rectum

ANSWERS: 31. disproportionately, 32. indecency, 33. extravagant, 34. renovate, 35. mischievous, 36. lentils, 37. compulsion, 38. anus

39. The nomadic tribes set up camp on the vast _____.

- n.* a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America

40. He _____ that corruption was rampant in the regime.

- v.* to think or believe something

41. Investing in real estate can be a _____ business if done correctly.

- adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

42. The doctor _____ the child with a vaccine.

- v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

43. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.

- v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

44. He was _____ with work and didn't notice me.

- adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

45. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

46. The upcoming project will _____ most of our team's time and resources.

- v.* to dominate or engage the attention, thoughts, or concerns of someone to the exclusion of other things; to occupy or fill one's mind or time

ANSWERS: 39. steppe, 40. reckons, 41. lucrative, 42. inoculated, 43. disrupt, 44. preoccupied, 45. institutionalize, 46. preoccupy

47. I can't help but _____ my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

- v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

ANSWERS: 47. envy