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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Marc Pachter: The art of the interview | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

portraiture

n. the art or practice of creating portraits or likenesses of people, especially through painting, drawing, or photography

synonym: portrait, likeness, depiction

(1) **portraits** of famous people, (2) **portraiture** of landscapes

The artist's **portraiture** captured the essence of her subject's character.

precondition

n. a necessary condition or requirement that must be met for something else to happen or be possible

synonym: requisite, prerequisite, stipulation

(1) **precondition** agreement, (2) essential **precondition**

A peaceful environment is a **precondition** for meaningful negotiations.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

interrogate

v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

synonym: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police

The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

cagey

adj. evasive or reluctant to be specific or give someone information

synonym: evasive, guarded, secretive

(1) a **cagey** boxer, (2) in a **cagey** manner

The older man was **cagey** about revealing the location of the treasure he had buried.

frost

n. a thin layer of ice that forms on surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing; weather cold enough to cause freezing

synonym: freeze, ice, blight

(1) five degrees of **frost**, (2) **frost** line

The **frost** on the ground made it slippery and difficult to walk.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

senator

n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

synonym: legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

gruff

adj. rough or abrasive in manner or speech, especially with an air of impatience or annoyance; abrupt or blunt in a manner that could be seen as brusque or unfriendly

synonym: abrupt, rough, curt

(1) **gruff** voice, (2) **gruff** attitude

The **gruff** police officer intimidated the suspect with his stern demeanor.

shuck

v. to remove the shell or outer covering of something, such as a corn or an oyster; to discard or get rid of something, particularly something that is seen as useless or unwanted

synonym: peel, husk, shell

(1) **shuck** peas, (2) **shuck** oysters

I had to **shuck** the corn before I could cook it for dinner.

reprogram

v. to modify or recreate a program

synonym: recreate, modify, revamp

(1) **reprogram** a device, (2) **reprogram** a database

He **reprogrammed** the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.

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.

cocoon

n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates

synonym: chrysalis, pupa, case

(1) **cocoon** silk, (2) a dried **cocoon**

The caterpillar spins a **cocoon** around itself before turning into a butterfly.

entrenched

adj. established firmly and securely

synonym: deep-rooted, confirmed, ingrained

(1) **entrenched** ideas, (2) **entrenched** positions

The monarch exploited the peasants using its **entrenched** power.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

playwright

n. a person who writes plays

synonym: dramatist, scribe, librettist

(1) acclaimed **playwright**, (2) a **playwright** attached to the theatre

The **playwright's** work was praised by critics and audiences

alike.

congressperson

n. a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)

synonym: lawmaker, politician, representative

(1) hawkish **congressperson**, (2) former **congressperson**

The term of a **congressperson** is two years.

phenomenal

adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding

synonym: extraordinary, remarkable, impressive

(1) **phenomenal** success, (2) **phenomenal** growth

The athlete's **phenomenal** performance broke all previous records.

incidentally

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

synonym: by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

Incidentally, I know the answer to that question.

adore

v. to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence

synonym: cherish, worship, idolize

(1) truly **adore** him, (2) **adore** the way she styles her hair

Children seem to **adore** chocolate ice cream no matter where they're from.

stonewall

v. to refuse to answer questions or provide information; to delay discussion or decision

synonym: obstruct, block, impede

(1) **stonewall** the investigation, (2) **stonewall** their attempts

The government **stonewalled** the opposition party's efforts to access information about the project.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

upstage

v. to distract attention from someone or something else, often intentionally; to move upstage in a theater, away from the audience, thus taking a more prominent position on the stage; (adverb) at or toward the rear of the stage

synonym: outdo, overshadow, eclipse

(1) **upstage** a co-star, (2) move **upstage**

The musician's incredible solo momentarily **upstaged** the lead singer.

wither

v. to gradually shrink, shrivel, or become weaker, often due to lack of nourishment, age, or disease; to lose freshness, vitality, or vigor

synonym: fade, wilt, shrivel

(1) **wither** corporate management, (2) **wither** in the heat

The flowers in the garden began to **wither** due to lack of water.

butler

n. a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties

synonym: valet, majordomo, manservant

(1) **butler** service, (2) household **butler**

The personal **butler** announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.

passe

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

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique

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

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

affectionate

adj. showing fondness, love, or affection towards someone or something; expressing care and tenderness in gestures, words, or actions toward others

synonym : loving, tender, fond

(1) **affectionate** relationship, (2) **affectionate** kiss

The elderly couple always stayed **affectionate** towards each other throughout their marriage.

sob

v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds

synonym : cry, weep, wail

(1) **sob** out a story, (2) **sob** quietly

She **sobbed** uncontrollably after hearing the news.

biographer

n. a person who writes the story of another person

synonym : writer, historian, author

(1) **biographer** of a famous person, (2) **biographer's** research

The respected **biographer** spent several years researching and writing the famous person's life story.

disappoint

v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

synonym : sadden, dismay, frustrate

(1) **disappoint** the audience, (2) don't **disappoint** me

She worked very hard not to **disappoint** her boss's expectations.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym : disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

confrontation

n. the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement

synonym : face-off, conflict, competition

(1) violent **confrontation**, (2) verbal **confrontation**

The **confrontation** between the two nations escalated into a full-blown war.

abrasive

adj. causing irritation, rubbing, or friction, especially upon the skin; rough to the touch; harsh and unkind in manner

synonym : rough, scratchy, grating

(1) **abrasive** personality, (2) **abrasive** material

Using an **abrasive** cleaner on delicate surfaces can cause permanent damage.

courtly

adj. characterized by refined behavior, elegance, and politeness, typically associated with a royal or noble court; exhibiting or practicing chivalry, courtesy, and gracious manners

synonym : polite, gracious, elegant

(1) **courtly** manners, (2) **courtly** dance

The princess greeted her guests with a **courtly** bow and elegant manners.

audacity

n. boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless

synonym : boldness, daring, temerity

(1) **audacity** of hope, (2) act of **audacity**

His **audacity** in stealing the painting matched his foolishness in getting caught.

choreograph

v. to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music

(1) **choreograph** a stage performance, (2) exquisitely **choreographed**

He had **choreographed** the dance in this play himself.

rambling

adj. disorganized and lacking in structure or coherence; using many words to express an idea or thought in a way that lacks clarity or focus

synonym : disorganized, incoherent, sprawling

(1) **rambling** speech, (2) **rambling** narrative

The hiking trail was a long and **rambling** route through the mountains.

askew

adv. crooked, tilted, or not aligned in the proper or expected way; in a twisted or off-center manner

synonym: crookedly, skewed, awry

(1) tilted **askew**, (2) crooked **askew**

The picture frame was hung **askew** on the wall, which bothered her sense of symmetry.

resigned

adj. having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances

synonym: submissive, acquiescent, passive

(1) with a **resigned** voice, (2) **resigned** to their fate

She had a **resigned** look on her face when she realized that she had lost the race.

memento

n. an object or item that serves to remind someone of a person, event, or experience; a keepsake or souvenir

synonym: souvenir, keepsake, reminder

(1) symbolic **memento**, (2) a small **memento**

The photo album was filled with **mementos** from their trip around the world.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym: impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble

That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

puberty

n. the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction

synonym: adolescence, young adulthood

(1) at the height of **puberty** ., (2) the onset of **puberty**
In this culture, men are initiated when they reach **puberty**.

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.

truthful

adj. honest and telling the truth

synonym : honest, sincere, accurate

(1) **truthful** statement, (2) **truthful** person

She was **truthful** in her testimony, despite the pressure to lie.

commend

v. to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else

synonym : praise, applaud, compliment

(1) **commend** a job well done, (2) **commend** him for his bravery

The coach **commended** the team for fighting until the end and never giving up.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
2. un____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
3. five degrees of fr__t *n.* a thin layer of ice that forms on surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing; weather cold enough to cause freezing
4. aff____ate kiss *adj.* showing fondness, love, or affection towards someone or something; expressing care and tenderness in gestures, words, or actions toward others
5. un____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
6. sh__k peas *v.* to remove the shell or outer covering of something, such as a corn or an oyster; to discard or get rid of something, particularly something that is seen as useless or unwanted
7. household bu____r *n.* a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties
8. move up____e *v.* to distract attention from someone or something else, often intentionally; to move upstage in a theater, away from the audience, thus taking a more prominent position on the stage; (adverb) at or toward the rear of the stage

ANSWERS: 1. obsess, 2. uncover, 3. frost, 4. affectionate, 5. uncover, 6. shuck, 7. butler, 8. upstage

9. co____y dance *adj.* characterized by refined behavior, elegance, and politeness, typically associated with a royal or noble court; exhibiting or practicing chivalry, courtesy, and gracious manners
10. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
11. int_____ted by police *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
12. full of em____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
13. tilted as__w *adv.* crooked, tilted, or not aligned in the proper or expected way; in a twisted or off-center manner
14. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
15. ra____ng speech *adj.* disorganized and lacking in structure or coherence; using many words to express an idea or thought in a way that lacks clarity or focus
16. co____d him for his bravery *v.* to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else

ANSWERS: 9. courtly, 10. determinant, 11. interrogate, 12. empathy, 13. askew, 14. intellect, 15. rambling, 16. commend

17. ent_____ed ideas *adj.* established firmly and securely
18. truly ad__e him *v.* to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
19. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
20. a pla_____ht attached to the theatre *n.* a person who writes plays
21. s_b out a story *v.* to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
22. co_____y manners *adj.* characterized by refined behavior, elegance, and politeness, typically associated with a royal or noble court; exhibiting or practicing chivalry, courtesy, and gracious manners
23. se_____r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
24. cho_____ph a stage performance *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
25. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
26. se_____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
27. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
28. in a ca__y manner *adj.* evasive or reluctant to be specific or give someone information

ANSWERS: 17. entrenched, 18. adore, 19. embarrass, 20. playwright, 21. sob, 22. courtly, 23. senator, 24. choreograph, 25. passe, 26. secondly, 27. unthinkable, 28. cagey

29. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
30. em____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
31. verbal con_____ion *n.* the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement
32. at the height of pu____y. *n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
33. se____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
34. phe_____al success *adj.* extremely good or impressive; outstanding
35. fr__t line *n.* a thin layer of ice that forms on surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing; weather cold enough to cause freezing
36. s_b quietly *v.* to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
37. gr__f attitude *adj.* rough or abrasive in manner or speech, especially with an air of impatience or annoyance; abrupt or blunt in a manner that could be seen as brusque or unfriendly

ANSWERS: 29. dedicate, 30. empathy, 31. confrontation, 32. puberty, 33. secondly, 34. phenomenal, 35. frost, 36. sob, 37. gruff

38. pre_____ion agreement *n.* a necessary condition or requirement that must be met for something else to happen or be possible
39. an unt_____le coincidence *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
40. ab_____ve material *adj.* causing irritation, rubbing, or friction, especially upon the skin; rough to the touch; harsh and unkind in manner
41. co____n silk *n.* a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
42. in_____t ancestral property *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
43. inc_____lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
44. re_____am a device *v.* to modify or recreate a program
45. st_____ll the investigation *v.* to refuse to answer questions or provide information; to delay discussion or decision
46. a dried co____n *n.* a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
47. former con_____son *n.* a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)
48. violent con_____ion *n.* the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement

ANSWERS: 38. precondition, 39. unthinkable, 40. abrasive, 41. cocoon, 42. inherit, 43. incidentally, 44. reprogram, 45. stonewall, 46. cocoon, 47. congressperson, 48. confrontation

49. aff_____ate relationship *adj.* showing fondness, love, or affection towards someone or something; expressing care and tenderness in gestures, words, or actions toward others
50. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
51. por_____res of famous people *n.* the art or practice of creating portraits or likenesses of people, especially through painting, drawing, or photography
52. ab_____ve personality *adj.* causing irritation, rubbing, or friction, especially upon the skin; rough to the touch; harsh and unkind in manner
53. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
54. acclaimed pla_____ht *n.* a person who writes plays
55. with a re_____ed voice *adj.* having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
56. he is ob____sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
57. inc_____lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
58. gr__f voice *adj.* rough or abrasive in manner or speech, especially with an air of impatience or annoyance; abrupt or blunt in a manner that could be seen as brusque or unfriendly

ANSWERS: 49. affectionate, 50. dedicate, 51. portraiture, 52. abrasive, 53. intellect, 54. playwright, 55. resigned, 56. obsess, 57. incidentally, 58. gruff

59. symbolic me____o *n.* an object or item that serves to remind someone of a person, event, or experience; a keepsake or souvenir
60. int_____te an enemy soldier *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
61. up_____e a co-star *v.* to distract attention from someone or something else, often intentionally; to move upstage in a theater, away from the audience, thus taking a more prominent position on the stage; (adverb) at or toward the rear of the stage
62. tr____ul statement *adj.* honest and telling the truth
63. essential pre_____ion *n.* a necessary condition or requirement that must be met for something else to happen or be possible
64. re_____am a database *v.* to modify or recreate a program
65. ent_____ed positions *adj.* established firmly and securely
66. dis_____nt the audience *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
67. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
68. bio_____er of a famous person *n.* a person who writes the story of another person
69. co_____d a job well done *v.* to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else

ANSWERS: 59. memento, 60. interrogate, 61. upstage, 62. truthful, 63. precondition, 64. reprogram, 65. entrenched, 66. disappoint, 67. embarrass, 68. biographer, 69. commend

70. don't dis_____nt me *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
71. a ca__y boxer *adj.* evasive or reluctant to be specific or give someone information
72. au_____ty of hope *n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless
73. st_____ll their attempts *v.* to refuse to answer questions or provide information; to delay discussion or decision
74. act of au_____ty *n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless
75. ra_____ng narrative *adj.* disorganized and lacking in structure or coherence; using many words to express an idea or thought in a way that lacks clarity or focus
76. exquisitely cho_____phed *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
77. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
78. re_____ed to their fate *adj.* having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
79. wi___r corporate management *v.* to gradually shrink, shrivel, or become weaker, often due to lack of nourishment, age, or disease; to lose freshness, vitality, or vigor
80. crooked as__w *adv.* crooked, tilted, or not aligned in the proper or expected way; in a twisted or off-center manner

ANSWERS: 70. disappoint, 71. cagey, 72. audacity, 73. stonewall, 74. audacity, 75. rambling, 76. choreograph, 77. onstage, 78. resigned, 79. wither, 80. askew

81. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
82. bio_____er's research *n.* a person who writes the story of another person
83. bu___r service *n.* a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties
84. sh__k oysters *v.* to remove the shell or outer covering of something, such as a corn or an oyster; to discard or get rid of something, particularly something that is seen as useless or unwanted
85. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
86. por_____re of landscapes *n.* the art or practice of creating portraits or likenesses of people, especially through painting, drawing, or photography
87. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
88. a small me____o *n.* an object or item that serves to remind someone of a person, event, or experience; a keepsake or souvenir
89. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
90. wi___r in the heat *v.* to gradually shrink, shrivel, or become weaker, often due to lack of nourishment, age, or disease; to lose freshness, vitality, or vigor

ANSWERS: 81. passe, 82. biographer, 83. butler, 84. shuck, 85. inherit, 86. portraiture, 87. determinant, 88. memento, 89. onstage, 90. wither

91. phe_____al growth *adj.* extremely good or impressive; outstanding
92. the onset of pu_____y *n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
93. ad__e the way she styles her hair *v.* to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
94. tr_____ul person *adj.* honest and telling the truth
95. junior se_____r *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
96. hawkish con_____son *n.* a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)

ANSWERS: 91. phenomenal, 92. puberty, 93. adore, 94. truthful, 95. senator, 96. congressperson

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

- Using an _____ cleaner on delicate surfaces can cause permanent damage.
adj. causing irritation, rubbing, or friction, especially upon the skin; rough to the touch; harsh and unkind in manner
- He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
- The flowers in the garden began to _____ due to lack of water.
v. to gradually shrink, shrivel, or become weaker, often due to lack of nourishment, age, or disease; to lose freshness, vitality, or vigor
- She _____ uncontrollably after hearing the news.
v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
- A peaceful environment is a _____ for meaningful negotiations.
n. a necessary condition or requirement that must be met for something else to happen or be possible
- The government _____ the opposition party's efforts to access information about the project.
v. to refuse to answer questions or provide information; to delay discussion or decision
- He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
- The hiking trail was a long and _____ route through the mountains.
adj. disorganized and lacking in structure or coherence; using many words to express an idea or thought in a way that lacks clarity or focus

ANSWERS: 1. abrasive, 2. embarrass, 3. wither, 4. sobbed, 5. precondition, 6. stonewalled, 7. obsessed, 8. rambling

9. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
10. The older man was _____ about revealing the location of the treasure he had buried.
adj. evasive or reluctant to be specific or give someone information
11. She was _____ in her testimony, despite the pressure to lie.
adj. honest and telling the truth
12. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
13. He _____ his life to helping others.
v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
14. Children seem to _____ chocolate ice cream no matter where they're from.
v. to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
15. The artist's _____ captured the essence of her subject's character.
n. the art or practice of creating portraits or likenesses of people, especially through painting, drawing, or photography
16. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 9. Empathy, 10. cagey, 11. truthful, 12. onstage, 13. dedicated, 14. adore, 15. portraiture, 16. determinant

17. The coach _____ the team for fighting until the end and never giving up.
- v. to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else
18. She had a _____ look on her face when she realized that she had lost the race.
- adj. having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
19. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
- v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
20. The _____ between the two nations escalated into a full-blown war.
- n. the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement
21. The _____ police officer intimidated the suspect with his stern demeanor.
- adj. rough or abrasive in manner or speech, especially with an air of impatience or annoyance; abrupt or blunt in a manner that could be seen as brusque or unfriendly
22. She worked very hard not to _____ her boss's expectations.
- v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
23. He had _____ the dance in this play himself.
- v. to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
24. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately _____ the witness.
- v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

ANSWERS: 17. commended, 18. resigned, 19. inherited, 20. confrontation, 21. gruff, 22. disappoint, 23. choreographed, 24. interrogate

25. The term of a _____ is two years.
- n.* a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)
26. The hawkish _____ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.
- n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
27. The elderly couple always stayed _____ towards each other throughout their marriage.
- adj.* showing fondness, love, or affection towards someone or something; expressing care and tenderness in gestures, words, or actions toward others
28. The _____ on the ground made it slippery and difficult to walk.
- n.* a thin layer of ice that forms on surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing; weather cold enough to cause freezing
29. His _____ in stealing the painting matched his foolishness in getting caught.
- n.* boldness or daring, especially when it is foolhardy or reckless
30. I had to _____ the corn before I could cook it for dinner.
- v.* to remove the shell or outer covering of something, such as a corn or an oyster; to discard or get rid of something, particularly something that is seen as useless or unwanted
31. The personal _____ announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.
- n.* a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties

ANSWERS: 25. congressperson, 26. senator, 27. affectionate, 28. frost, 29. audacity, 30. shuck, 31. butler

32. The respected _____ spent several years researching and writing the famous person's life story.
n. a person who writes the story of another person
33. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
34. The athlete's _____ performance broke all previous records.
adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding
35. The caterpillar spins a _____ around itself before turning into a butterfly.
n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
36. In this culture, men are initiated when they reach _____.
n. the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
37. The picture frame was hung _____ on the wall, which bothered her sense of symmetry.
adv. crooked, tilted, or not aligned in the proper or expected way; in a twisted or off-center manner
38. The musician's incredible solo momentarily _____ the lead singer.
v. to distract attention from someone or something else, often intentionally; to move upstage in a theater, away from the audience, thus taking a more prominent position on the stage; (adverb) at or toward the rear of the stage
39. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

ANSWERS: 32. biographer, 33. uncovered, 34. phenomenal, 35. cocoon, 36. puberty, 37. askew, 38. upstaged, 39. intellect

40. _____ I know the answer to that question.

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

41. The photo album was filled with _____ from their trip around the world.

n. an object or item that serves to remind someone of a person, event, or experience; a keepsake or souvenir

42. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

43. The monarch exploited the peasants using its _____ power.

adj. established firmly and securely

44. The princess greeted her guests with a _____ bow and elegant manners.

adj. characterized by refined behavior, elegance, and politeness, typically associated with a royal or noble court; exhibiting or practicing chivalry, courtesy, and gracious manners

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

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

46. The _____ work was praised by critics and audiences alike.

n. a person who writes plays

47. He _____ the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.

v. to modify or recreate a program

ANSWERS: 40. Incidentally, 41. mementos, 42. unthinkable, 43. entrenched, 44. courtly, 45. passe, 46. playwright's, 47. reprogrammed

48. 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.

ANSWERS: 48. secondly,