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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Paola Antonelli: Design and the Elastic Mind | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

dabble

v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid

synonym: toy with, tinker with, play at

(1) **dabble** in a hobby, (2) **dabble** at French

They often **dabble** in new business ventures but only commit partially.

curator

n. a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.

synonym: conservator, custodian, administrator

(1) **curator** of a library, (2) interim **curator**

The museum **curator** conserved the ancient manuscripts.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark
The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

curate

n. a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation

synonym: minister, caretaker, (verb) arrange

(1) perpetual **curate**, (2) **curate** an art website

The art museum has hired a **curate** to select and display pieces from its collection.

multitasking

n. the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time

synonym: juggling, multihandling, parallelism

(1) computer **multitasking**, (2) **multitasking** ability

She could finish all her work on time because of her **multitasking** skills.

clog

v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something

synonym: block, jam, obstruct

(1) **clog** a filter, (2) **clog** artery

The drain was **clogged** with hair and needed to be cleaned out.

malaise

n. a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or unease whose exact cause is difficult to identify

synonym: unease, discomfort, dissatisfaction

(1) emotional **malaise**, (2) societal **malaise**

The country is experiencing economic **malaise**.

elasticity

n. the ability of a material to return to its original shape after being stretched or compressed; flexibility; adaptability to change

synonym: flexibility, pliability, suppleness

(1) **elasticity** coefficient, (2) skin **elasticity**

The **elasticity** of the rubber band allowed it to stretch without breaking.

cherish

v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

synonym: treasure, value, hold dear

(1) **cherish** a stuffed animal, (2) **cherish** relationships

She **cherished** the memories of her childhood.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

tinker

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

synonym: fiddle, play, fix

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

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

cultivate

v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants

synonym: boost, foster, nurture

(1) **cultivate** a field, (2) **cultivate** relationships

University is a great place to **cultivate** our minds and expertise.

- fest** *n.* a festive celebration, often one that lasts for several days and involves music, food, and other forms of entertainment
synonym : celebration, carnival
(1) film **fest**, (2) beer **fest**
The music **fest** was a huge success, with thousands of people in attendance.
- physicist** *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**
Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.
- serpentine** *adj.* characterized by twists, turns, or curves shaped like a snake; sly, cunning, or devious in behavior or expression
synonym : twisting, winding, curving
(1) **serpentine** road, (2) **serpentine** design
The **serpentine** river snaked through the lush forest.
- sect** *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
synonym : group, faction, cult
(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**
The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
- stimming** *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
synonym : self-stimulation, repetitive behaviors
(1) autistic **stimming**, (2) **stimming** therapy
Autistic children may engage in **stimming** behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.

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.

typewriter

n. a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over

(1) **typewriter** keys, (2) electronic **typewriter**

I found an old **typewriter** at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

vitro

n. (used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish

synonym: glass, container, vessel

(1) in **vitro** fermentation, (2) in **vitro** diagnostics

The lab technician used in **vitro** fertilization to help the couple conceive.

banal

adj. lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar

synonym: trite, mundane, dull

(1) **banal** conversation, (2) **banal** plot

The restaurant's menu had a **banal** selection of generic dishes with no unique or exciting options.

minuscule

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym : tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters

This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

faze

v. to disturb or disconcert someone, often causing them to lose their confidence or composure; to unsettle, intimidate, or fluster

synonym : disturb, unsettle, bother

(1) **faze** a decision-maker, (2) unlikely to **faze** him

I won't let a little criticism **faze** me from pursuing my dreams.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

chimpanzee

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

synonym : ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

visualize

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

synonym : imagine, picture, envision

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

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

choreography

n. the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance

synonym : composition, arrangement, dance notation

(1) original **choreography**, (2) **choreography** art
The dance performance featured intricate **choreography**.

homologous

adj. having the same or similar structure, position, or function, particularly in different species or organisms; related by common ancestry

synonym: corresponding, analogous, similar

(1) **homologous** genes, (2) **homologous** structures

Homologous recombination is a process that can occur during DNA repair.

mash

v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions;
(*noun*) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

synonym: crush, grind, pulverize

(1) **mash** his words, (2) potato **mash**

She **mashed** the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

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.

metaphysics

n. the branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature and the first principles of reality, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, identity, time, and space

(1) **metaphysics** study, (2) the nature of **metaphysics**

Kant's thoughts provided the foundational ideas for treating **metaphysics** as a discipline.

solitude

n. the state of being alone and isolated from others

synonym: isolation, seclusion, loneliness

(1) live in **solitude**, (2) enjoyment of **solitude**

He sought **solitude** in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

synonym: legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban

The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

carving

n. the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design

synonym: cutting, engraving, sculpture

(1) a wood **carving**, (2) **carving** instrument

The intricate **carving** on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.

lithograph

n. a printmaking process that involves creating a design on a flat stone or metal plate, transferring the design to paper using ink, and then printing multiple copies of the design

synonym: print, etching, engraving

(1) **lithograph** print, (2) limited edition **lithograph**

The art gallery showcased a collection of colorful **lithographic** prints by renowned artists.

solidify

v. to make solid, firm, or compact; to cause to become solid

synonym: set, harden, congeal

(1) **solidify** a bond, (2) **solidify** a decision

The committee's decision helped to **solidify** the rules of the game.

retool

v. to adapt, modify, or overhaul something, often a system or process, to make it more efficient or effective for its intended purpose or to meet changing needs or demands

synonym: revamp, remodel, adapt

(1) **retool** a strategy, (2) **retool** a business

We need to **retool** our manufacturing process and invest in new technology to stay competitive in the market.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym : antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

retrace

v. to trace again, reexamine, or follow the path or course of something; to go back over something or retrace one's steps

synonym : backtrack, follow back

(1) **retrace** my life, (2) **retrace** a journey

I need to **retrace** my steps to find the lost keys.

olfactory

adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents

synonym : olfactive, scent-based, aromatic

(1) **olfactory** cortex, (2) **olfactory** memory

The **olfactory** senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.

reflex

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

synonym : reaction, response, instinct

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

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

signify

v. to indicate, represent, or communicate something, especially an idea or concept, often through a symbol, gesture, or word

synonym : indicate, express, convey

(1) **signify** importance, (2) actions that **signify** agreement

The red lights on the dashboard **signify** that the car needs maintenance.

needy

adj. lacking the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing; requiring the help or support of others; excessively demanding or dependent

synonym : dependent, impoverished, destitute

(1) **needy** families, (2) **needy** situation

The community came together to aid and assist those in **needy** areas affected by natural disasters.

breakup

n. the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

synonym : breakdown, divorce, separation

(1) a **breakup** hug, (2) air **breakup**

He got over the big **breakup** with his wife.

plat

n. a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes

synonym : map, chart, diagram

(1) **plat** book, (2) a former **plat** of farmland

The city planning department keeps detailed **plats** of all the local properties.

mourning

n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

synonym : grieving, sorrow, lamentation

(1) **mourning** period, (2) **mourning** ritual

She wore black clothing as a symbol of **mourning** for her grandmother.

Bluetooth

n. a short-range wireless communication technology that allows electronic devices to connect and exchange data wirelessly over short distances, commonly used for connecting devices such as smartphones, headphones, and speakers

(1) **Bluetooth** connection, (2) **Bluetooth-enabled** device

I need a **Bluetooth** headset for my conference calls.

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.

passee

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

synonym : outdated, old-fashioned, antique

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

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

afterlife

n. life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions

synonym : eternal life, immortality, hereafter

(1) **afterlife** name, (2) corporate **afterlife**

The belief in an **afterlife** comforted those mourning the loss of their loved ones.

gastric

adj. relating to the stomach or the digestive system; characterized by or causing discomfort or pain in the stomach or upper abdomen

synonym : stomachic, digestive, belly

(1) **gastric** issues, (2) **gastric** cancer

After eating spicy food, some people experience **gastric** distress like heartburn and indigestion.

flashlight

n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off

synonym : torch, lamp, beacon

(1) **flashlight** beam, (2) **flashlight** batteries

He used a backup **flashlight** to find his way through the dark cave.

Session 2: Spelling

1. af_____fe name *n.* life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
2. de___e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
3. ga_____c cancer *adj.* relating to the stomach or the digestive system; characterized by or causing discomfort or pain in the stomach or upper abdomen
4. corporate af_____fe *n.* life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
5. ol_____ry memory *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
6. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
7. limited edition lit_____ph *n.* a printmaking process that involves creating a design on a flat stone or metal plate, transferring the design to paper using ink, and then printing multiple copies of the design
8. f__e a decision-maker *v.* to disturb or disconcert someone, often causing them to lose their confidence or composure; to unsettle, intimidate, or fluster

ANSWERS: 1. afterlife, 2. devote, 3. gastric, 4. afterlife, 5. olfactory, 6. sect, 7. lithograph, 8. faze

9. film f__t *n.* a festive celebration, often one that lasts for several days and involves music, food, and other forms of entertainment
10. chi_____ee society *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
11. mo_____ng period *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
12. ca_____g instrument *n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
13. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
14. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
15. re_____e my life *v.* to trace again, reexamine, or follow the path or course of something; to go back over something or retrace one's steps
16. autistic st_____ng *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
17. electronic typ_____er *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over

ANSWERS: 9. fest, 10. chimpanzee, 11. mourning, 12. carving, 13. Renaissance, 14. obsess, 15. retrace, 16. stimming, 17. typewriter

26. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
27. me__y-making *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
28. re___x test *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
29. re___l a business *v.* to adapt, modify, or overhaul something, often a system or process, to make it more efficient or effective for its intended purpose or to meet changing needs or demands
30. computer mul_____ing *n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
31. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
32. met_____cs study *n.* the branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature and the first principles of reality, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, identity, time, and space
33. na_____le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
34. re_____e a journey *v.* to trace again, reexamine, or follow the path or course of something; to go back over something or retrace one's steps

ANSWERS: 26. visualize, 27. merry, 28. reflex, 29. retool, 30. multitasking, 31. passe, 32. metaphysics, 33. nanoscale, 34. retrace

35. ol_____ry cortex *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
36. societal ma_____e *n.* a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or unease whose exact cause is difficult to identify
37. typ_____er keys *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
38. da___e in a hobby *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
39. so_____fy a bond *v.* to make solid, firm, or compact; to cause to become solid
40. in vi__o diagnostics *n.* (used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish
41. a br_____p hug *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
42. in___t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
43. de___e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 35. olfactory, 36. malaise, 37. typewriter, 38. dabble, 39. solidify, 40. vitro, 41. breakup, 42. inject, 43. devote

44. perpetual cu___e *n.* a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation
45. skin ela_____ty *n.* the ability of a material to return to its original shape after being stretched or compressed; flexibility; adaptability to change
46. en__t the smoking ban *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
47. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
48. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
49. lit_____ph print *n.* a printmaking process that involves creating a design on a flat stone or metal plate, transferring the design to paper using ink, and then printing multiple copies of the design
50. me__y laughter *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
51. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 44. curate, 45. elasticity, 46. enact, 47. opportune, 48. sponge, 49. lithograph, 50. merry, 51. obsess

61. sc___t prototype *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
62. hom_____us structures *adj.* having the same or similar structure, position, or function, particularly in different species or organisms; related by common ancestry
63. in___t a personal opinion into a debate *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
64. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
65. chi_____ee behavior *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
66. c__g artery *v.* to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
67. ser_____ne road *adj.* characterized by twists, turns, or curves shaped like a snake; sly, cunning, or devious in behavior or expression
68. metallic sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
69. paleolithic ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

ANSWERS: 61. sculpt, 62. homologous, 63. inject, 64. nanoscale, 65. chimpanzee, 66. clog, 67. serpentine, 68. sponge, 69. artifact

70. re___l a strategy *v.* to adapt, modify, or overhaul something, often a system or process, to make it more efficient or effective for its intended purpose or to meet changing needs or demands
71. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
72. ba__l plot *adj.* lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar
73. interim cu_____r *n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.
74. ser_____ne design *adj.* characterized by twists, turns, or curves shaped like a snake; sly, cunning, or devious in behavior or expression
75. da___e at French *v.* to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
76. cu_____te relationships *v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
77. cu_____r of a library *n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.
78. Bl_____th-enabled device *n.* a short-range wireless communication technology that allows electronic devices to connect and exchange data wirelessly over short distances, commonly used for connecting devices such as smartphones, headphones, and speakers

ANSWERS: 70. retool, 71. sect, 72. banal, 73. curator, 74. serpentine, 75. dabble, 76. cultivate, 77. curator, 78. Bluetooth

79. artistic ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
80. potato m__h *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
81. fla_____ht batteries *n.* a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
82. original cho_____phy *n.* the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance
83. emotional ma_____e *n.* a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or unease whose exact cause is difficult to identify
84. mul_____ing ability *n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
85. air br_____p *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
86. mi_____le amount *adj.* extremely small; tiny
87. p__t book *n.* a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 79. Renaissance, 80. mash, 81. flashlight, 82. choreography, 83. malaise, 84. multitasking, 85. breakup, 86. minuscule, 87. plat

88. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
89. si_____y importance *v.* to indicate, represent, or communicate something, especially an idea or concept, often through a symbol, gesture, or word
90. c__g a filter *v.* to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
91. so_____fy a decision *v.* to make solid, firm, or compact; to cause to become solid
92. ch_____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
93. the nature of met_____cs *n.* the branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature and the first principles of reality, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, identity, time, and space
94. fla_____ht beam *n.* a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
95. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
96. ela_____ty coefficient *n.* the ability of a material to return to its original shape after being stretched or compressed; flexibility; adaptability to change

ANSWERS: 88. physicist, 89. signify, 90. clog, 91. solidify, 92. cherish, 93. metaphysics, 94. flashlight, 95. passe, 96. elasticity

107. ga____c issues *adj.* relating to the stomach or the digestive system; characterized by or causing discomfort or pain in the stomach or upper abdomen
108. sc___t an image *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
109. beer f__t *n.* a festive celebration, often one that lasts for several days and involves music, food, and other forms of entertainment
110. ne__y situation *adj.* lacking the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing; requiring the help or support of others; excessively demanding or dependent

ANSWERS: 107. gastric, 108. sculpt, 109. fest, 110. needy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
2. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
3. The drain was _____ with hair and needed to be cleaned out.
v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
4. She could finish all her work on time because of her _____ skills.
n. the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
5. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. physicist, 2. nanoscale, 3. clogged, 4. multitasking, 5. visualize, 6. opportune, 7. merry

8. She _____ the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.
- v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
9. I need to _____ my steps to find the lost keys.
- v. to trace again, reexamine, or follow the path or course of something; to go back over something or retrace one's steps
10. The music _____ was a huge success, with thousands of people in attendance.
- n. a festive celebration, often one that lasts for several days and involves music, food, and other forms of entertainment
11. University is a great place to _____ our minds and expertise.
- v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
12. He sought _____ in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.
- n. the state of being alone and isolated from others
13. The city planning department keeps detailed _____ of all the local properties.
- n. a map or a plan that shows the division and layout of land into lots or parcels; a piece of land typically used for building or agricultural purposes
14. Many zoos have _____ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.
- n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
15. Autistic children may engage in _____ behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.
- n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

ANSWERS: 8. mashed, 9. retrace, 10. fest, 11. cultivate, 12. solitude, 13. plats, 14. chimpanzee, 15. stimming

16. The government _____ this law in 1925.
v. to make a law; to put something into practice
17. The lab technician used in _____ fertilization to help the couple conceive.
n. (used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish
18. The intricate _____ on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.
n. the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
19. He spent the afternoon _____ with his car engine.
v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
20. My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the _____ hammer.
n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
21. 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
22. He spent hours every day _____ figures out of clay.
v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
23. He used a backup _____ to find his way through the dark cave.
n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off

ANSWERS: 16. enacted, 17. vitro, 18. carving, 19. tinkering, 20. reflex, 21. passe, 22. sculpting, 23. flashlight

24. She wore black clothing as a symbol of _____ for her grandmother.
- n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
25. The belief in an _____ comforted those mourning the loss of their loved ones.
- n.* life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
26. The community came together to aid and assist those in _____ areas affected by natural disasters.
- adj.* lacking the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing; requiring the help or support of others; excessively demanding or dependent
27. The country is experiencing economic _____.
- n.* a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or unease whose exact cause is difficult to identify
28. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
- n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
29. I need a _____ headset for my conference calls.
- n.* a short-range wireless communication technology that allows electronic devices to connect and exchange data wirelessly over short distances, commonly used for connecting devices such as smartphones, headphones, and speakers
30. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
- v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

ANSWERS: 24. mourning, 25. afterlife, 26. needy, 27. malaise, 28. sect, 29. Bluetooth, 30. inject

31. The art museum has hired a _____ to select and display pieces from its collection.
- n.* a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation
32. The committee's decision helped to _____ the rules of the game.
- v.* to make solid, firm, or compact; to cause to become solid
33. This ore emits _____ quantities of radiation
- adj.* extremely small; tiny
34. The art gallery showcased a collection of colorful _____ prints by renowned artists.
- n.* a printmaking process that involves creating a design on a flat stone or metal plate, transferring the design to paper using ink, and then printing multiple copies of the design
35. We need to _____ our manufacturing process and invest in new technology to stay competitive in the market.
- v.* to adapt, modify, or overhaul something, often a system or process, to make it more efficient or effective for its intended purpose or to meet changing needs or demands
36. She _____ the memories of her childhood.
- v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
37. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.
- n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

ANSWERS: 31. curate, 32. solidify, 33. minuscule, 34. lithographic, 35. retool, 36. cherished, 37. sponge

38. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.
- n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
39. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
- v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
40. The _____ of the rubber band allowed it to stretch without breaking.
- n.* the ability of a material to return to its original shape after being stretched or compressed; flexibility; adaptability to change
41. After eating spicy food, some people experience _____ distress like heartburn and indigestion.
- adj.* relating to the stomach or the digestive system; characterized by or causing discomfort or pain in the stomach or upper abdomen
42. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.
- n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
43. _____ recombination is a process that can occur during DNA repair.
- adj.* having the same or similar structure, position, or function, particularly in different species or organisms; related by common ancestry
44. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
- v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
45. The _____ river snaked through the lush forest.
- adj.* characterized by twists, turns, or curves shaped like a snake; sly, cunning, or devious in behavior or expression

ANSWERS: 38. artifacts, 39. obsessed, 40. elasticity, 41. gastric, 42. renaissance, 43. Homologous, 44. devoted, 45. serpentine

46. I won't let a little criticism _____ me from pursuing my dreams.
v. to disturb or disconcert someone, often causing them to lose their confidence or composure; to unsettle, intimidate, or fluster
47. The _____ senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.
adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
48. I found an old _____ at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.
n. a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
49. Kant's thoughts provided the foundational ideas for treating _____ as a discipline.
n. the branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature and the first principles of reality, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, identity, time, and space
50. They often _____ in new business ventures but only commit partially.
v. to engage in an activity in a casual or superficial way; to dip a foot or hand briefly into a liquid
51. The restaurant's menu had a _____ selection of generic dishes with no unique or exciting options.
adj. lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar
52. The red lights on the dashboard _____ that the car needs maintenance.
v. to indicate, represent, or communicate something, especially an idea or concept, often through a symbol, gesture, or word

ANSWERS: 46. faze, 47. olfactory, 48. typewriter, 49. metaphysics, 50. dabble, 51. banal, 52. signify

53. He got over the big _____ with his wife.

- n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

54. The dance performance featured intricate _____.

- n.* the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance

55. The museum _____ conserved the ancient manuscripts.

- n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.

ANSWERS: 53. breakup, 54. choreography, 55. curator