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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James Randi: Homeopathy, quackery and fraud |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym: illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

incantation

n. a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state

synonym: spell, charm, enchantment

(1) **incantation** spell, (2) magic **incantation**

The witch performed an **incantation** to summon a demon from the depths of hell.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

beard

n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin

synonym : facial hair, whiskers, stubble

(1) a black **beard**, (2) shave my **beard**

He grew a thick **beard** to change his appearance.

backstage

adj. relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life

synonym : behind-the-scenes, offstage, private

(1) **backstage** access, (2) **backstage** crew

The **backstage** preparations for the concert took hours to complete.

deceive

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression

synonym : mislead, dupe, hoodwink

(1) **deceive** to lie, (2) **deceive** skillfully

The magician's illusions were designed to **deceive** the audience into believing they saw something impossible.

forte

n. a person's strong point; a musical notation indicating that a particular passage should be played loudly or with emphasis

synonym : strong, loud, strenght

(1) **forte** piano, (2) mezzo **forte**

Playing the piano with a **forte** touch means playing it loudly.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

hamlet

n. a small village or settlement, often without a church

synonym: village, settlement, community

(1) **hamlet** village, (2) historic **hamlet**

The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small **hamlet**.

astrology

n. the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world

synonym: horoscope, star divination, celestial prediction

(1) **astrology** chart, (2) delve into **astrology**

He was fascinated by ancient **astrology** and spent hours studying horoscopes.

perpetual

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

synonym: enduring, unchanging, incessant

(1) **perpetual** motion machine, (2) **perpetual** struggle

The company employs a **perpetual** inventory system.

comeback

n. a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult

synonym: return, resurgence, revival

(1) political **comeback**, (2) career **comeback**

The musician made an impressive **comeback** with their latest album.

incapable

adj. unable to do, control, or achieve something

synonym: unable, incompetent, unskilled

(1) drunk and **incapable**, (2) **incapable** of being resisted

He seems **incapable** of understanding what she says.

subculture

n. a distinct social group or community within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture

synonym: underground culture, alternative culture

(1) **subculture** movement, (2) **subculture** fashion

The punk **subculture** emerged in the 1970s as a response to mainstream society and its values.

gimmick

n. a trick, device, or scheme used to attract attention or create a desired effect, often by using novelty or deception

synonym: trick, ploy, tactic

(1) video **gimmick**, (2) accounting **gimmick**

The marketing team devised a clever **gimmick** to attract more customers to the store.

profoundly

adv. to a great or complete degree; deeply

synonym: deeply, greatly, completely

(1) **profoundly** insightful, (2) sleep **profoundly**

The novel affected her **profoundly**, causing her to question her beliefs and values.

detriment

n. something that causes harm, injury, or damage

synonym: harm, damage, injury

(1) **detriment** of society, (2) bring great **detriment**

The new approach resulted in a significant **detriment** to the local economy.

anguish

n. severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony

synonym: distress, torment, agony

(1) **anguish** and pain, (2) emotional **anguish**

She suffered from a deep sense of **anguish** following the loss of her loved one.

charlatan

n. a person who pretends to have special knowledge or skills to deceive people

synonym : fraud, imposter, sham

(1) the dishonesty of a **charlatan**, (2) **charlatan** medicine

The religious **charlatan** promised a cure for all illnesses but delivered none.

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.

secrete

v. to produce and discharge a substance, such as a hormone or glandular secretion; to conceal or hide something

synonym : excrete, seep, discharge

(1) **secrete** mucus, (2) **secrete** enzymes

The glands in the body **secrete** hormones that regulate various bodily functions.

someplace

adv. somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location

synonym : somewhere, anywhere, wherever

(1) from **someplace** deep inside, (2) **someplace** quiet

Let's go **someplace** new and try something we have not done before.

kitten

n. a young cat

synonym : catling, kitling, puss

(1) **kitten** formula, (2) newborn **kitten**

The **kitten's** fur was so fluffy that it looked like it was always moving.

grieve

v. to feel or show great sadness or sorrow, especially for someone who has died

synonym : mourn, lament, sorrow

(1) **grieve** for loss, (2) **grieve** at the sad news
She **grieved** the loss of her parents.

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.

rosemary

n. an aromatic evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves and small blue or white flowers, often used as a culinary herb for its strong, distinctive flavor

synonym: herb, herbaceous plant

(1) **rosemary** plant, (2) **rosemary** seasoning

I added some fresh **rosemary** to the roasted chicken for extra flavor.

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.

electrify

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

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

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

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

razor

n. a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair

synonym: blade, shaver, cutter

(1) **razor** blade, (2) an electric **razor**

He shaved with a **razor** to get a close shave.

farce

n. a type of comedy that relies on ridiculous situations, improbable coincidences, and exaggerated characters to provide humor

synonym: comedy, parody, spoof

(1) sports **farce**, (2) theatrical **farce**

The political scandal was like a **farce** straight out of a TV sitcom.

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.

bootblack

n. a person who shines or polishes shoes for a living; someone who provides shoe-shining services

synonym: shoeshiner, shoe polisher

(1) professional **bootblack**, (2) old-fashioned **bootblack**

The hotel had a **bootblack** service, providing guests with shoe shining on request.

negotiable

adj. capable of being discussed and agreed upon; able to be changed or altered through negotiation

synonym: flexible, adjustable, adaptable

(1) a **negotiable** bill, (2) **negotiable** salary

The price of these items is **negotiable**, so feel free to make an offer.

paranormal

adj. relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences

synonym: supernatural, mystical, otherworldly

(1) **paranormal** experience, (2) **paranormal** phenomena

The haunted house was said to be a hotspot for **paranormal** activity.

occult

adj. relating to mysterious or supernatural phenomena or powers that are beyond normal human knowledge or understanding; hidden or concealed from view; beyond the realm of what can be seen or observed

synonym : hidden, mysterious, esoteric

(1) **occult** knowledge, (2) **occult** practices

She is interested in practicing **occult** rituals.

supernatural

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

synonym : paranormal, otherworldly, preternatural

(1) **supernatural** beings, (2) **supernatural** intuition

The **supernatural** powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

homeopathy

n. a system of alternative medicine based on the principle of "like cures like," in which the symptoms of an ailment are treated with highly diluted substances that are known to produce similar symptoms in healthy individuals

(1) **homeopathy** treatment, (2) **homeopathy** practitioner

The **homeopathy** course introduces the principles and practices of this alternative healing method.

ingest

v. to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge

synonym : swallow, consume, devour

(1) **ingest** food, (2) **ingest** medication

People who compulsively **ingest** non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.

stunt

n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something

that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

synonym: feat, accomplishment, (verb) hinder

(1) skydiving **stunt**, (2) **stunt** brain growth

The daredevil attempted a dangerous **stunt** by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

dilute

v. to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it

synonym: weaken, thin, reduce

(1) **dilute** acid with water, (2) **dilute** a great idea

She **diluted** the concentrated juice with water.

aspirin

n. a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation

(1) prescribe **aspirin**, (2) **aspirin** sensitivity

She took a tablet of **aspirin** to soothe the fever.

sip

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

synonym: taste, sample, drink

(1) **sip** a drink, (2) take a **sip** of beer

He **sipped** his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

impure

adj. mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters

synonym : contaminated, polluted, unclean

(1) **impure** water, (2) **impure** thoughts

In some religions, pork is deemed **impure**.

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym : perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

shameless

adj. without shame or embarrassment; showing no remorse or guilt for one's actions or behaviors

synonym : brazen, unashamed, audacious

(1) **shameless** behavior, (2) **shameless** liar

He acted in a **shameless** way, not caring that his actions hurt others.

dangle

v. to hang or swing loosely, especially in a way that suggests instability or lack of support; to tempt or tantalize by holding out the prospect of something desirable but uncertain

synonym : swing, hang, drape

(1) **dangle** a carrot, (2) **dangle** a pendant

The earring on her earlobe would **dangle** as she moved her head.

dowsing

n. a method or practice using a divining rod or other device to locate underground water sources or other hidden

substances

synonym : divination, water witching

(1) **dowsing** rod, (2) **dowsing** for minerals

The ancient practice of **dowsing** involves using a divining rod to find hidden water sources.

Session 2: Spelling

1. Ar_____an romances
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
2. skydiving st__t
n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
3. s_p a drink
v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
4. st__t brain growth
n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
5. as_____gy chart
n. the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world
6. se_____e mucus
v. to produce and discharge a substance, such as a hormone or glandular secretion; to conceal or hide something
7. traditional me_____al
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 1. Arthurian, 2. stunt, 3. sip, 4. stunt, 5. astrology, 6. secrete, 7. medicinal

8. ra__r blade *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
9. delve into as_____gy *n.* the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world
10. hom_____hy practitioner *n.* a system of alternative medicine based on the principle of "like cures like," in which the symptoms of an ailment are treated with highly diluted substances that are known to produce similar symptoms in healthy individuals
11. co_____e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
12. emotional an_____h *n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony
13. de_____e skillfully *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
14. ha___t village *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
15. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
16. as_____n sensitivity *n.* a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation
17. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 8. razor, 9. astrology, 10. homeopathy, 11. conjure, 12. anguish, 13. deceive, 14. hamlet, 15. Arthurian, 16. aspirin, 17. starve

18. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
19. par_____al phenomena *adj.* relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences
20. ch_____an medicine *n.* a person who pretends to have special knowledge or skills to deceive people
21. ne__y families *adj.* lacking the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing; requiring the help or support of others; excessively demanding or dependent
22. bring great de_____nt *n.* something that causes harm, injury, or damage
23. a neg_____le bill *adj.* capable of being discussed and agreed upon; able to be changed or altered through negotiation
24. di___e a great idea *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
25. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
26. gr___e at the sad news *v.* to feel or show great sadness or sorrow, especially for someone who has died
27. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

ANSWERS: 18. medicinal, 19. paranormal, 20. charlatan, 21. needy, 22. detriment, 23. negotiable, 24. dilute, 25. creditor, 26. grieve, 27. passe

28. ki___n formula *n.* a young cat
29. a black be__d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
30. newborn ki___n *n.* a young cat
31. sh_____ss liar *adj.* without shame or embarrassment; showing no remorse or guilt for one's actions or behaviors
32. gr___e for loss *v.* to feel or show great sadness or sorrow, especially for someone who has died
33. pe_____al struggle *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
34. sup_____ral beings *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
35. ro_____ry seasoning *n.* an aromatic evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves and small blue or white flowers, often used as a culinary herb for its strong, distinctive flavor
36. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
37. pro_____ly insightful *adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
38. oc___t knowledge *adj.* relating to mysterious or supernatural phenomena or powers that are beyond normal human knowledge or understanding; hidden or concealed from view; beyond the realm of what can be seen or observed

ANSWERS: 28. kitten, 29. beard, 30. kitten, 31. shameless, 32. grieve, 33. perpetual, 34. supernatural, 35. rosemary, 36. opportune, 37. profoundly, 38. occult

39. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
40. di___e acid with water *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
41. political co_____ck *n.* a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult
42. career co_____ck *n.* a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult
43. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
44. in_____le of being resisted *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
45. inc_____on spell *n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state
46. hom_____hy treatment *n.* a system of alternative medicine based on the principle of "like cures like," in which the symptoms of an ailment are treated with highly diluted substances that are known to produce similar symptoms in healthy individuals

ANSWERS: 39. electrify, 40. dilute, 41. comeback, 42. comeback, 43. rot, 44. incapable, 45. incantation, 46. homeopathy

47. from so_____ce deep inside *adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location
48. old-fashioned bo_____ck *n.* a person who shines or polishes shoes for a living; someone who provides shoe-shining services
49. theatrical fa__e *n.* a type of comedy that relies on ridiculous situations, improbable coincidences, and exaggerated characters to provide humor
50. im___e water *adj.* mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters
51. fo__e piano *n.* a person's strong point; a musical notation indicating that a particular passage should be played loudly or with emphasis
52. pe_____al motion machine *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
53. ba_____ge access *adj.* relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life
54. sub_____re movement *n.* a distinct social group or community within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture

ANSWERS: 47. someplace, 48. bootblack, 49. farce, 50. impure, 51. forte, 52. perpetual, 53. backstage, 54. subculture

55. the dishonesty of a ch_____an *n.* a person who pretends to have special knowledge or skills to deceive people
56. se_____e enzymes *v.* to produce and discharge a substance, such as a hormone or glandular secretion; to conceal or hide something
57. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
58. accounting gi_____k *n.* a trick, device, or scheme used to attract attention or create a desired effect, often by using novelty or deception
59. an_____h and pain *n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony
60. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
61. oc_____t practices *adj.* relating to mysterious or supernatural phenomena or powers that are beyond normal human knowledge or understanding; hidden or concealed from view; beyond the realm of what can be seen or observed
62. take a s_p of beer *v.* to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
63. ro_____ry plant *n.* an aromatic evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves and small blue or white flowers, often used as a culinary herb for its strong, distinctive flavor

ANSWERS: 55. charlatan, 56. secrete, 57. creditor, 58. gimmick, 59. anguish, 60. pretension, 61. occult, 62. sip, 63. rosemary

64. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
65. da___e a pendant *v.* to hang or swing loosely, especially in a way that suggests instability or lack of support; to tempt or tantalize by holding out the prospect of something desirable but uncertain
66. in___t food *v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
67. co____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
68. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
69. mezzo fo__e *n.* a person's strong point; a musical notation indicating that a particular passage should be played loudly or with emphasis
70. im___e thoughts *adj.* mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters
71. de_____nt of society *n.* something that causes harm, injury, or damage

ANSWERS: 64. starve, 65. dangle, 66. ingest, 67. confuse, 68. opportune, 69. forte, 70. impure, 71. detriment

72. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
73. magic inc_____on *n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state
74. professional bo_____ck *n.* a person who shines or polishes shoes for a living; someone who provides shoe-shining services
75. sh_____ss behavior *adj.* without shame or embarrassment; showing no remorse or guilt for one's actions or behaviors
76. historic ha____t *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
77. da____e a carrot *v.* to hang or swing loosely, especially in a way that suggests instability or lack of support; to tempt or tantalize by holding out the prospect of something desirable but uncertain
78. shave my be__d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
79. sub_____re fashion *n.* a distinct social group or community within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture

ANSWERS: 72. pretension, 73. incantation, 74. bootblack, 75. shameless, 76. hamlet, 77. dangle, 78. beard, 79. subculture

80. an electric ra__r *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
81. video gi____k *n.* a trick, device, or scheme used to attract attention or create a desired effect, often by using novelty or deception
82. 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
83. co_____e a vision *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
84. sleep pro_____ly *adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
85. in___t medication *v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
86. ma_____an's hat *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
87. ba_____ge crew *adj.* relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life

ANSWERS: 80. razor, 81. gimmick, 82. needy, 83. conjure, 84. profoundly, 85. ingest, 86. magician, 87. backstage

88. par_____al experience *adj.* relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences
89. do_____g rod *n.* a method or practice using a divining rod or other device to locate underground water sources or other hidden substances
90. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
91. drunk and in_____le *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
92. sup_____ral intuition *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
93. de_____e to lie *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
94. sports fa__e *n.* a type of comedy that relies on ridiculous situations, improbable coincidences, and exaggerated characters to provide humor
95. so_____ce quiet *adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location
96. do_____g for minerals *n.* a method or practice using a divining rod or other device to locate underground water sources or other hidden substances

ANSWERS: 88. paranormal, 89. dowsing, 90. passe, 91. incapable, 92. supernatural, 93. deceive, 94. farce, 95. someplace, 96. dowsing

97. prescribe as____n *n.* a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation
98. neg_____le salary *adj.* capable of being discussed and agreed upon; able to be changed or altered through negotiation
99. street ma_____an *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
100. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
101. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
102. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

ANSWERS: 97. aspirin, 98. negotiable, 99. magician, 100. confuse, 101. rot, 102. electrify

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The hotel had a _____ service, providing guests with shoe shining on request.
n. a person who shines or polishes shoes for a living; someone who provides shoe-shining services
2. He seems _____ of understanding what she says.
adj. unable to do, control, or achieve something
3. She is interested in practicing _____ rituals.
adj. relating to mysterious or supernatural phenomena or powers that are beyond normal human knowledge or understanding; hidden or concealed from view; beyond the realm of what can be seen or observed
4. The punk _____ emerged in the 1970s as a response to mainstream society and its values.
n. a distinct social group or community within a larger society that shares a set of practices, beliefs, or values that are different from those of the dominant culture
5. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
6. He grew a thick _____ to change his appearance.
n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
7. The ancient practice of _____ involves using a divining rod to find hidden water sources.
n. a method or practice using a divining rod or other device to locate underground water sources or other hidden substances

ANSWERS: 1. bootblack, 2. incapable, 3. occult, 4. subculture, 5. creditor, 6. beard, 7. dowsing

8. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.
- n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
9. She suffered from a deep sense of _____ following the loss of her loved one.
- n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony
10. The religious _____ promised a cure for all illnesses but delivered none.
- n.* a person who pretends to have special knowledge or skills to deceive people
11. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
12. The political scandal was like a _____ straight out of a TV sitcom.
- n.* a type of comedy that relies on ridiculous situations, improbable coincidences, and exaggerated characters to provide humor
13. 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
14. Playing the piano with a _____ touch means playing it loudly.
- n.* a person's strong point; a musical notation indicating that a particular passage should be played loudly or with emphasis
15. The musician made an impressive _____ with their latest album.
- n.* a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult

ANSWERS: 8. magician's, 9. anguish, 10. charlatan, 11. medicinal, 12. farce, 13. passe, 14. forte, 15. comeback

16. Her remarks _____ the debate.

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

17. The _____ course introduces the principles and practices of this alternative healing method.

n. a system of alternative medicine based on the principle of "like cures like," in which the symptoms of an ailment are treated with highly diluted substances that are known to produce similar symptoms in healthy individuals

18. He was fascinated by ancient _____ and spent hours studying horoscopes.

n. the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world

19. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

20. The _____ preparations for the concert took hours to complete.

adj. relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life

21. The haunted house was said to be a hotspot for _____ activity.

adj. relating to phenomena or experiences that are beyond scientific explanation or understanding, often associated with forces or entities that are outside the realm of normal human perception or understanding, such as ghosts, psychic abilities, or supernatural occurrences

22. The new approach resulted in a significant _____ to the local economy.

n. something that causes harm, injury, or damage

ANSWERS: 16. confused, 17. homeopathy, 18. astrology, 19. conjured, 20. backstage, 21. paranormal, 22. detriment

23. The witch performed an _____ to summon a demon from the depths of hell.
- n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state
24. In some religions, pork is deemed _____.
- adj.* mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters
25. The marketing team devised a clever _____ to attract more customers to the store.
- n.* a trick, device, or scheme used to attract attention or create a desired effect, often by using novelty or deception
26. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
- v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
27. People who compulsively _____ non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.
- v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
28. The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small _____.
- n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
29. She _____ the loss of her parents.
- v.* to feel or show great sadness or sorrow, especially for someone who has died

ANSWERS: 23. incantation, 24. impure, 25. gimmick, 26. rot, 27. ingest, 28. hamlet, 29. grieved

30. Let's go _____ new and try something we have not done before.

adv. somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location

31. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

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

32. The _____ powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

33. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

34. He _____ his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

35. She _____ the concentrated juice with water.

v. to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it

36. The _____ fur was so fluffy that it looked like it was always moving.

n. a young cat

37. 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

ANSWERS: 30. someplace, 31. opportune, 32. supernatural, 33. starve, 34. sipped, 35. diluted, 36. kitten's, 37. needy

38. The magician's illusions were designed to _____ the audience into believing they saw something impossible.
- v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
39. The daredevil attempted a dangerous _____ by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.
- n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
40. The novel affected her _____ causing her to question her beliefs and values.
- adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
41. The company employs a _____ inventory system.
- adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
42. The earring on her earlobe would _____ as she moved her head.
- v.* to hang or swing loosely, especially in a way that suggests instability or lack of support; to tempt or tantalize by holding out the prospect of something desirable but uncertain
43. He shaved with a _____ to get a close shave.
- n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
44. She took a tablet of _____ to soothe the fever.
- n.* a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation

ANSWERS: 38. deceive, 39. stunt, 40. profoundly, 41. perpetual, 42. dangle, 43. razor, 44. aspirin

45. I added some fresh _____ to the roasted chicken for extra flavor.
n. an aromatic evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves and small blue or white flowers, often used as a culinary herb for its strong, distinctive flavor
46. The glands in the body _____ hormones that regulate various bodily functions.
v. to produce and discharge a substance, such as a hormone or glandular secretion; to conceal or hide something
47. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
48. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
49. The price of these items is _____ so feel free to make an offer.
adj. capable of being discussed and agreed upon; able to be changed or altered through negotiation
50. He acted in a _____ way, not caring that his actions hurt others.
adj. without shame or embarrassment; showing no remorse or guilt for one's actions or behaviors
51. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

ANSWERS: 45. rosemary, 46. secrete, 47. pretensions, 48. electrify, 49. negotiable, 50. shameless, 51. Arthurian

ANSWERS: