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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sheila Patek: The shrimp with a kick! | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

lobster

n. a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming

synonym: crustacean, crawfish, crayfish

(1) **lobster** dinner, (2) fresh **lobster**

The restaurant served a delicious **lobster**, steamed to perfection.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

mantis

n. a type of predatory insect known for its distinctive front legs that are bent in a way that resembles a praying posture

synonym: insect, predator, bug

(1) **mantis** predator, (2) narrow-winged **mantis**

The praying **mantis** was an exciting subject for the biology class.

appendage

n. a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part

that projects outward from the main body

synonym : extension, limb, attachment

(1) spiny **appendage**, (2) mechanical **appendage**

The spider's **appendage** allowed it to climb up the wall easily.

spear

n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

synonym : javelin, pike, lance

(1) hunting **spear**, (2) sharp-pointed **spear**

Ancient people made **spears** with wood entirely.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym : great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

snail

n. a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body

synonym : escargot, slug, whelk

(1) **snail** mail, (2) **snail** pace

The gardener found a **snail** slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.

whack

v. to hit someone or something hard or noisily

synonym : hit, strike, bash

(1) **whack** him with a stick, (2) **whack** up the volume

He **whacked** the ball out of the park with his home run.

wiggle

v. to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements

synonym : jiggle, squirm, jerk

(1) **wiggle** her lips, (2) **wiggle** with excitement

Her hips **wiggle** as she walks.

tug

v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

synonym : draw, jerk, pull

(1) **tug** a rope, (2) **tug** at his hand

This movie **tugs** at everyone's heartstrings.

raptorial

adj. relating to or adapted for seizing prey or hunting; predatory; characterized by sharp claws or beaks for capturing prey

synonym : predatory

(1) **raptorial** bird, (2) **raptorial** instincts

The bird's **raptorial** beak enabled it to catch and devour its prey.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym : poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

darn

v. to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches

synonym : mend, repair, patch

(1) **darn** stockings, (2) **darn** hole

I have to **darn** these socks before they become unwearable.

stymie

v. to obstruct, hinder, or prevent something from succeeding or happening; to present an obstacle or impediment to progress or achievement

synonym : hinder, obstruct, impede

(1) **stymie** progress, (2) **stymie** plans

The new regulations will **stymie** the growth of small

businesses in the area.

latch

n. a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt

synonym: lock, catch, bolt

(1) set the **latch**, (2) **latch** mechanism

The **latch** on the gate was broken, so the cows got loose.

amplification

n. the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea

synonym: enlargement, expansion, intensification

(1) **amplification** system, (2) sound **amplification**

The political debate was an **amplification** of the candidates' views on key issues.

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.

membranous

adj. resembling or relating to a membrane (= a thin, flexible layer); having a thin, flexible, or delicate structure

synonym: film-like, thin, diaphanous

(1) **membranous** tissue, (2) **membranous** organ

The doctor discovered a **membranous** growth in the patient's throat.

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.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym: condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

hyperbola

n. a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci

synonym: curve, ellipse, parabola

(1) **hyperbola** equation, (2) geometric **hyperbola**

The astrophysicist analyzed the light spectrum emitted from the **hyperbola** nucleus of the distant galaxy.

parabola

n. a symmetrical curve formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to its side; (of mathematics) a curve described by a quadratic equation (a type of polynomial equation of the second degree denoted as $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$)

synonym: curve, arch

(1) **parabola** shape, (2) **parabola** equation

The trajectory of the cannonball followed a **parabola** in the air.

anticlastic

adj. relating to a curvature or surface that curves in opposite directions at different points, creating a saddle-like shape; characterized by a convex surface in one direction and a concave surface in the other

synonym: curved, convex, concave

(1) **anticlastic** form, (2) **anticlastic** deformation

The sculpture showcased intricate **anticlastic** curves that created a unique visual effect.

transverse

adj. lying or extending across something or from side to side
synonym : crosswise, perpendicular, lateral

(1) **transverse** section, (2) **transverse** wave

The **transverse** beam provided additional support for the structure.

perturbation

n. a state of anxiety, confusion, or disturbance; a deviation or disruption from the normal or expected state

synonym : disruption, disturbance, turmoil

(1) seismic **perturbation**, (2) emotional **perturbation**

The unexpected financial crisis caused a **perturbation** in the stock market, leading to widespread panic among investors.

popularize

v. to make something more widely known, accepted, or adopted by the general public; to present or promote something in a way that increases its popularity or appeal

synonym : generalize, promote, spread

(1) **popularize** a new fashion trend, (2) **popularize** a scientific concept

The celebrity's endorsement helped **popularize** the new clothing line.

piezoelectric

adj. relating to or utilizing the property of certain materials that generate an electric charge when subjected to mechanical stress caused by the rearrangement of the material's atoms or molecules, which creates an imbalance in electrical charge and leads to the generation of an electric voltage or current

synonym : vibratory, electrically responsive, crystal-controlled

(1) **piezoelectric** material, (2) **piezoelectric** sensor

The **piezoelectric** crystals generate electricity when pressure is applied to them.

pasty

n. a type of baked pastry that typically consists of a filling of meat, vegetables, or other ingredients, enclosed in a pastry shell; (adjective) pale, lacking in color, or dull

synonym :

pastry, pie

(1) **pasty** face, (2) Cornish **pasty**

I plan to pick up a chicken **pasty** at that bakery on my way home from work.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym: confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

cavitate

v. to form bubbles, typically in a fluid, often as a result of a decrease in pressure; to form a hollow space within a solid material, often used in medicine to describe the formation of small, empty spaces within tissues or organs as a result of disease or injury

synonym: hollow, void, empty

(1) **cavitate** organic molecules, (2) **cavitate** in a vacuum

The water heater had sediment buildup that caused it to **cavitate** and make loud noises.

emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

synonym: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

propeller

n. a device with rotating blades or vanes used for propulsion or creating lift, typically used on boats or aircraft

synonym: prop, rotor, fan

(1) **propeller** design, (2) **propeller** aircraft

The boat's **propeller** stopped working in the middle of the lake.

- 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**.
- 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.
- quandary** n. a state of uncertainty or confusion, particularly when one is unsure of what to do; a dilemma
synonym : dilemma, uncertainty, predicament
(1) **quandary** situation, (2) financial **quandary**
I was in a **quandary** over which job offer to accept.
- whammy** n. a powerful or devastating effect or influence; (double whammy) an adverse effect that is compounded by another negative effect
synonym : spell, hex, jinx
(1) **whammy** of bad news, (2) get the double **whammy**
The company's stock took a **whammy** after the scandal broke.
- disintegrate** v. break or cause to break into small fragments
synonym : shatter, crumble, break down
(1) **disintegrate** in an explosion, (2) **disintegrate** over time
The vase **disintegrated** into pieces when it fell to the ground.
- arthropod** n. a type of invertebrate animal with a segmented body, jointed limbs, and an exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and centipedes
synonym : insect, crustacean, spider
(1) **arthropod** exoskeleton, (2) small **arthropod**
The classification of **arthropods** is constantly evolving as

new species are discovered, and genetic studies provide new insights into their evolutionary relationships.

molt

v. to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated

synonym: shed, exuviate, doff

(1) **molt** its feathers, (2) **molt** at regular intervals

The snake **molted** its skin to grow bigger.

wacky

adj. funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way

synonym: absurd, eccentric, ludicrous

(1) **wacky** value, (2) **wacky** plan for selling more books

His friend was a pretty wild and **wacky** character.

obnoxious

adj. extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm

synonym: offensive, unpleasant, irritating

(1) **obnoxious** habits, (2) **obnoxious** odor

His **obnoxious** behavior at the party made everyone uncomfortable.

bluff

v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

synonym: abrupt, cliff, precipice

(1) **bluff** the other side, (2) riverside **bluff**

He **bluffed** a person out of going.

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.

miller

n. a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill

synonym: grinder, pulverizer, crusher

(1) **miller** flour, (2) water **miller**

The **millers'** work was a vital component of the local economy, providing flour to the bakeries and farmers in the area.

Session 2: Spelling

1. mem_____us tissue *adj.* resembling or relating to a membrane (= a thin, flexible layer); having a thin, flexible, or delicate structure
2. ma___s predator *n.* a type of predatory insect known for its distinctive front legs that are bent in a way that resembles a praying posture
3. pu_____d by the question *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
4. spiny ap_____ge *n.* a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body
5. ob_____us odor *adj.* extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm
6. wh__k him with a stick *v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
7. d__n hole *v.* to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches
8. sn__l mail *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
9. tra_____se section *adj.* lying or extending across something or from side to side
10. pr_____er aircraft *n.* a device with rotating blades or vanes used for propulsion or creating lift, typically used on boats or aircraft

ANSWERS: 1. membranous, 2. mantis, 3. puzzled, 4. appendage, 5. obnoxious, 6. whack, 7. darn, 8. snail, 9. transverse, 10. propeller

11. ca____te in a vacuum *v.* to form bubbles, typically in a fluid, often as a result of a decrease in pressure; to form a hollow space within a solid material, often used in medicine to describe the formation of small, empty spaces within tissues or organs as a result of disease or injury
12. pa__y face *n.* a type of baked pastry that typically consists of a filling of meat, vegetables, or other ingredients, enclosed in a pastry shell; (adjective) pale, lacking in color, or dull
13. pie_____ric sensor *adj.* relating to or utilizing the property of certain materials that generate an electric charge when subjected to mechanical stress caused by the rearrangement of the material's atoms or molecules, which creates an imbalance in electrical charge and leads to the generation of an electric voltage or current
14. financial qu____ry *n.* a state of uncertainty or confusion, particularly when one is unsure of what to do; a dilemma
15. Cornish pa__y *n.* a type of baked pastry that typically consists of a filling of meat, vegetables, or other ingredients, enclosed in a pastry shell; (adjective) pale, lacking in color, or dull
16. ant_____ic deformation *adj.* relating to a curvature or surface that curves in opposite directions at different points, creating a saddle-like shape; characterized by a convex surface in one direction and a concave surface in the other

ANSWERS: 11. cavitate, 12. pasty, 13. piezoelectric, 14. quandary, 15. pasty, 16. anticlastic

17. sharp-pointed sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
18. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
19. co_____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
20. small ar_____od *n.* a type of invertebrate animal with a segmented body, jointed limbs, and an exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and centipedes
21. bl__f the other side *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion
22. lo_____r dinner *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
23. wh___y of bad news *n.* a powerful or devastating effect or influence; (double whammy) an adverse effect that is compounded by another negative effect
24. wa__y plan for selling more books *adj.* funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way
25. ra_____al bird *adj.* relating to or adapted for seizing prey or hunting; predatory; characterized by sharp claws or beaks for capturing prey
26. t_g a rope *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

ANSWERS: 17. spear, 18. stab, 19. compress, 20. arthropod, 21. bluff, 22. lobster, 23. whammy, 24. wacky, 25. raptorial, 26. tug

27. 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
28. m__t its feathers *v.* to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated
29. qu_____ry situation *n.* a state of uncertainty or confusion, particularly when one is unsure of what to do; a dilemma
30. mechanical ap_____ge *n.* a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body
31. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
32. dis_____ate in an explosion *v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
33. ra_____al instincts *adj.* relating to or adapted for seizing prey or hunting; predatory; characterized by sharp claws or beaks for capturing prey
34. 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

ANSWERS: 27. pretension, 28. molt, 29. quandary, 30. appendage, 31. rot, 32. disintegrate, 33. raptorial, 34. backstage

35. pa____la equation *n.* a symmetrical curve formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to its side; (of mathematics) a curve described by a quadratic equation (a type of polynomial equation of the second degree denoted as $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$)
36. a sm____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
37. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
38. sn__l pace *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
39. water mi____r *n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
40. st____e plans *v.* to obstruct, hinder, or prevent something from succeeding or happening; to present an obstacle or impediment to progress or achievement
41. fresh lo____r *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
42. mi____r flour *n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
43. t_g at his hand *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

ANSWERS: 35. parabola, 36. smashing, 37. creditor, 38. snail, 39. miller, 40. stymie, 41. lobster, 42. miller, 43. tug

44. emotional per_____ion *n.* a state of anxiety, confusion, or disturbance; a deviation or disruption from the normal or expected state
45. narrow-winged ma____s *n.* a type of predatory insect known for its distinctive front legs that are bent in a way that resembles a praying posture
46. la__h mechanism *n.* a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt
47. pu_____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
48. sound amp_____ion *n.* the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea
49. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
50. wh__k up the volume *v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
51. ar_____od exoskeleton *n.* a type of invertebrate animal with a segmented body, jointed limbs, and an exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and centipedes
52. e__t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
53. st___e progress *v.* to obstruct, hinder, or prevent something from succeeding or happening; to present an obstacle or impediment to progress or achievement
54. pop_____ze a scientific concept *v.* to make something more widely known, accepted, or adopted by the general public; to present or promote something in a way that increases its popularity or appeal

ANSWERS: 44. perturbation, 45. mantis, 46. latch, 47. puzzled, 48. amplification, 49. rot, 50. whack, 51. arthropod, 52. emit, 53. stymie, 54. popularize

55. d__n stockings *v.* to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches
56. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
57. riverside bl__f *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion
58. ant_____ic form *adj.* relating to a curvature or surface that curves in opposite directions at different points, creating a saddle-like shape; characterized by a convex surface in one direction and a concave surface in the other
59. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
60. tra_____se wave *adj.* lying or extending across something or from side to side
61. set the la__h *n.* a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt
62. 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
63. ca_____te organic molecules *v.* to form bubbles, typically in a fluid, often as a result of a decrease in pressure; to form a hollow space within a solid material, often used in medicine to describe the formation of small, empty spaces within tissues or organs as a result of disease or injury

ANSWERS: 55. darn, 56. afterward, 57. bluff, 58. anticlastic, 59. visualize, 60. transverse, 61. latch, 62. backstage, 63. cavitate

64. hy_____la equation *n.* a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
65. ob_____us habits *adj.* extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm
66. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
67. dis_____ate over time *v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
68. pa_____la shape *n.* a symmetrical curve formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to its side; (of mathematics) a curve described by a quadratic equation (a type of polynomial equation of the second degree denoted as $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$)
69. amp_____ion system *n.* the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea
70. seismic per_____ion *n.* a state of anxiety, confusion, or disturbance; a deviation or disruption from the normal or expected state
71. pie_____ric material *adj.* relating to or utilizing the property of certain materials that generate an electric charge when subjected to mechanical stress caused by the rearrangement of the material's atoms or molecules, which creates an imbalance in electrical charge and leads to the generation of an electric voltage or current

ANSWERS: 64. hyperbola, 65. obnoxious, 66. creditor, 67. disintegrate, 68. parabola, 69. amplification, 70. perturbation, 71. piezoelectric

72. get the double wh___y *n.* a powerful or devastating effect or influence; (double whammy) an adverse effect that is compounded by another negative effect
73. 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
74. e__t air pollution *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
75. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
76. co_____ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
77. s__b in the chest *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
78. geometric hy_____la *n.* a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
79. m__t at regular intervals *v.* to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated
80. ex_____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 72. whammy, 73. pretension, 74. emit, 75. afterward, 76. compress, 77. stab, 78. hyperbola, 79. molt, 80. explode

81. pop_____ze a new fashion trend *v.* to make something more widely known, accepted, or adopted by the general public; to present or promote something in a way that increases its popularity or appeal
82. mem_____us organ *adj.* resembling or relating to a membrane (= a thin, flexible layer); having a thin, flexible, or delicate structure
83. hunting sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
84. wi___e with excitement *v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
85. wi___e her lips *v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
86. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
87. pr_____er design *n.* a device with rotating blades or vanes used for propulsion or creating lift, typically used on boats or aircraft
88. ex_____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
89. wa__y value *adj.* funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way
90. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

ANSWERS: 81. popularize, 82. membranous, 83. spear, 84. wiggle, 85. wiggle, 86. visualize, 87. propeller, 88. explode, 89. wacky, 90. smashing

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His _____ behavior at the party made everyone uncomfortable.
adj. extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm
2. The unexpected financial crisis caused a _____ in the stock market, leading to widespread panic among investors.
n. a state of anxiety, confusion, or disturbance; a deviation or disruption from the normal or expected state
3. The spider's _____ allowed it to climb up the wall easily.
n. a part attached to the main body or structure, often with a specific function or purpose; a limb or other body part that projects outward from the main body
4. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
5. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
adv. after the time mentioned
6. The classification of _____ is constantly evolving as new species are discovered, and genetic studies provide new insights into their evolutionary relationships.
n. a type of invertebrate animal with a segmented body, jointed limbs, and an exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and centipedes
7. I was in a _____ over which job offer to accept.
n. a state of uncertainty or confusion, particularly when one is unsure of what to do; a dilemma

ANSWERS: 1. obnoxious, 2. perturbation, 3. appendage, 4. compressed, 5. afterward, 6. arthropods, 7. quandary

8. The _____ work was a vital component of the local economy, providing flour to the bakeries and farmers in the area.
- n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
9. The vase _____ into pieces when it fell to the ground.
- v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
10. The sculpture showcased intricate _____ curves that created a unique visual effect.
- adj.* relating to a curvature or surface that curves in opposite directions at different points, creating a saddle-like shape; characterized by a convex surface in one direction and a concave surface in the other
11. The _____ crystals generate electricity when pressure is applied to them.
- adj.* relating to or utilizing the property of certain materials that generate an electric charge when subjected to mechanical stress caused by the rearrangement of the material's atoms or molecules, which creates an imbalance in electrical charge and leads to the generation of an electric voltage or current
12. He _____ the ball out of the park with his home run.
- v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
13. The company's stock took a _____ after the scandal broke.
- n.* a powerful or devastating effect or influence; (double whammy) an adverse effect that is compounded by another negative effect
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. miller's, 9. disintegrated, 10. anticlastic, 11. piezoelectric, 12. whacked, 13. whammy, 14. backstage

15. 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
16. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
17. I plan to pick up a chicken _____ at that bakery on my way home from work.
- n.* a type of baked pastry that typically consists of a filling of meat, vegetables, or other ingredients, enclosed in a pastry shell; (adjective) pale, lacking in color, or dull
18. The gardener found a _____ slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.
- n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
19. Ancient people made _____ with wood entirely.
- n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
20. His friend was a pretty wild and _____ character.
- adj.* funny in a slightly odd, peculiar, irregular way
21. The snake _____ its skin to grow bigger.
- v.* to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated
22. The trajectory of the cannonball followed a _____ in the air.
- n.* a symmetrical curve formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to its side; (of mathematics) a curve described by a quadratic equation (a type of polynomial equation of the second degree denoted as $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$)

ANSWERS: 15. pretensions, 16. creditor, 17. pasty, 18. snail, 19. spears, 20. wacky, 21. molted, 22. parabola

23. The doctor discovered a _____ growth in the patient's throat.
adj. resembling or relating to a membrane (= a thin, flexible layer); having a thin, flexible, or delicate structure
24. 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
25. The astrophysicist analyzed the light spectrum emitted from the _____ nucleus of the distant galaxy.
n. a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
26. He _____ a person out of going.
v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion
27. The praying _____ was an exciting subject for the biology class.
n. a type of predatory insect known for its distinctive front legs that are bent in a way that resembles a praying posture
28. The boat's _____ stopped working in the middle of the lake.
n. a device with rotating blades or vanes used for propulsion or creating lift, typically used on boats or aircraft
29. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 23. membranous, 24. visualize, 25. hyperbola, 26. bluffed, 27. mantis, 28. propeller, 29. exploded

30. The celebrity's endorsement helped _____ the new clothing line.
v. to make something more widely known, accepted, or adopted by the general public; to present or promote something in a way that increases its popularity or appeal
31. I have to _____ these socks before they become unwearable.
v. to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches
32. The new regulations will _____ the growth of small businesses in the area.
v. to obstruct, hinder, or prevent something from succeeding or happening; to present an obstacle or impediment to progress or achievement
33. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
34. The political debate was an _____ of the candidates' views on key issues.
n. the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea
35. The _____ beam provided additional support for the structure.
adj. lying or extending across something or from side to side
36. He was _____ many times with scissors.
v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
37. The _____ on the gate was broken, so the cows got loose.
n. a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt

ANSWERS: 30. popularize, 31. darn, 32. stymie, 33. smashing, 34. amplification, 35. transverse, 36. stabbed, 37. latch

38. The bird's _____ beak enabled it to catch and devour its prey.

adj. relating to or adapted for seizing prey or hunting; predatory; characterized by sharp claws or beaks for capturing prey

39. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will ____.

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

40. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

41. The water heater had sediment buildup that caused it to _____ and make loud noises.

v. to form bubbles, typically in a fluid, often as a result of a decrease in pressure; to form a hollow space within a solid material, often used in medicine to describe the formation of small, empty spaces within tissues or organs as a result of disease or injury

42. Her hips _____ as she walks.

v. to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements

43. The restaurant served a delicious _____ steamed to perfection.

n. a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming

44. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

45. This movie _____ at everyone's heartstrings.

v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

ANSWERS: 38. raptorial, 39. rot, 40. emits, 41. cavitate, 42. wiggle, 43. lobster, 44. puzzled, 45. tugs

ANSWERS: