1. The media nowadays is often accused of _____ people's privacy.

A. infringing on B. imprinting in C. impinging on D. indulging in

2. The head of the Human Resources Department found himself in the ____ line over recent job cuts.

A. heating B. firing C. blazing D. flaming

3. "Don't make the situation more complicated. It's not worth _____ hairs."

A. drying B. cutting C. trimming D. splitting

4. The book is such a ____ that I can't put it down.

A. page-turner B. best-seller C. duvet-cover D. mind-reader

5. The government has taken tough measures to ____ corruption in the country.

A. stamp out B. stretch away C. struggle on D. strike up

6. Closer ___ of the documents revealed a number of interesting and important facts.

A. suspicion B. scrutiny C. inception D. peculiarity

7. Although emails have been _____ over the past years, sending Christmas cards by post to friends and family members is still a tradition among many British people.

A. all the rage B. all around C. all along D. all the while

8. Some novels can be killed ____ dead by bad reviews when they are first published.

A. axe B. hammer C. rock D. stone

9. Personal feelings should not come into _____ when you are making business decisions.

A. force B. effect C. play D. question

10. The company wouldn't have seen such a quick turnover of staff had its manager not treated the employees with ____ contempt.

A. utter B. total C. wide D. high

11. You don't need to go into details. I just want the _____ of it.

A. thick and fast B. hard and fast C. long and short D. short and sweet

12. His energy and optimism were a tribute, perhaps, to the ____ life he advocated.

A. deleterious B. abstemious C. amorphous D. deciduous

13. The politician's speech was full of _____ rhetoric designed to appeal to voters' emotions rather than their reason.

A. insidious B. pernicious C. inflammatory D. surreptitious

14. The new evidence completely _____ the defendant's alibi, leaving the prosecution's case in tatters.

A. undermined B. supplanted C. corroborated D. vindicated

15. After years of financial struggle, the company finally managed to _____ and become profitable again.

A. turn the corner B. cut corners C. corner the market D. paint into a corner

16. The CEO's decision to _____ the merger talks came as a shock to investors.

A. call up B. call off C. call out D. call for

17. Her _____ attention to detail made her an invaluable asset to the research team.

A. meticulous B. fastidious C. scrupulous D. punctilious

LIVEWORKSHEETS

18. The scandal has really put the government _____ as public trust continues to erode.

A. on the back foot B. on the front line C. on thin ice D. on cloud nine

19. The documentary _____ light on the environmental impact of fast fashion.

A. cast B. shed C. threw D. placed

20. His _____ for classical music was evident in his extensive vinyl collection.

A. predilection B. proclivity C. propensity D. penchant

21. The witness's testimony was so _____ that it cast doubt on the entire prosecution case.

A. equivocal B. unequivocal C. vociferous D. perspicuous

22. Don't _____ around the bush – just tell me what happened.

A. cut B. beat C. trim D. hedge

23. The new software has helped _____ our workflow and increase productivity significantly.

A. streamline B. underline C. outline D. sideline

24. The professor's lecture was so _____ that half the students fell asleep.

A. soporific B. sporadic C. sophomoric D. sycophantic

25. The company decided to _____ its losses and close the unprofitable division.

A. cut B. reduce C. minimize D. curtail

26. Her _____ nature made it difficult for her to trust anyone completely.

A. circumspect B. introspective C. retrospective D. prospective

27. The negotiations have reached an _____ as neither side is willing to compromise.

A. ultimatum B. impasse C. embargo D. moratorium

28. The artist's work is known for its _____ style that blends traditional and modern elements.

A. eclectic B. esoteric C. eccentric D. endemic

29. I'm afraid we'll have to _____ our holiday plans due to the current circumstances.

A. shelve B. shelf C. shave D. shape

30. The manager's _____ approach to leadership created a hostile work environment.

A. autocratic B. democratic C. bureaucratic D. aristocratic

31. The journalist's _____ investigation uncovered widespread corruption in the industry.

A. cursory B. perfunctory C. assiduous D. desultory

32. He tends to _____ his achievements, which makes him very likeable.

A. play up B. play down C. play out D. play into

33. The company's reputation has been _____ by the recent scandal.

A. tarnished B. burnished C. furnished D. garnished

34. Her _____ personality made her the life of every party she attended.

A. vivacious B. voracious C. vicarious D. vexatious

35. The proposal was met with _____ criticism from environmental groups.

A. scathing B. soothing C. smoothing D. smothering

36. Don't count your chickens before they _____.

A. fly B. nest C. hatch D. roost

LIVEWORKSHEETS

37. The defendant's lawyer tried to _____ doubt on the witness's credibility.

A. cast B. throw C. place D. put

38. The board's decision was _____ influenced by the CEO's personal preferences.

A. unduly B. duly C. newly D. truly

39. The startup managed to _____ significant investment from venture capitalists.

A. secure B. procure C. ensure D. assure

40. His _____ remarks about his colleagues made him very unpopular in the office.

A. disparaging B. encouraging C. discouraging D. embarrassing

41. The new policy aims to _____ bureaucratic red tape and improve efficiency.

A. cut back on B. cut through C. cut down on D. cut out

42. The scientist's theory was initially _____ by the academic community.

A. spurious B. spurred C. spurned D. sporadic

43. We need to _____ our differences and work together on this project.

A. set back B. set up C. set out D. set aside

44. The company's _____ growth strategy focuses on sustainable development.

A. long-term B. short-term C. mid-term D. full-term

45. The politician's speech was full of _____ statements that could be interpreted in multiple ways.

A. ambiguous B. unambiguous C. ubiquitous D. incongruous

46. The team's performance has been _____ this season, with inconsistent results.

A. static B. ecstatic C. erratic D. dramatic

47. The new regulations will _____ into effect next month.

A. come B. go C. put D. take

48. Her _____ memory for faces made her an excellent detective.

A. precocious B. prestigious C. prodigious D. pretentious

49. The company's profits have been _____ steadily over the past five years.

A. dwindling B. swindling C. kindling D. handling

50. It's time to face the music and _____ the consequences of your actions.

A. respect B. except C. expect D. accept

51. The merger will _____ the company's position in the global market.

A. consolidate B. conjugate C. consecrate D. confiscate

52. The professor's _____ explanation helped clarify the complex concept.

A. lucid B. lurid C. livid D. liquid

53. The team needs to _____ their act together if they want to meet the deadline.

A. set B. put C. get D. keep

54. The government's _____ measures have failed to curb inflation effectively.

A. austerity B. prosperity C. sincerity D. posterity

55. His _____ behavior at the meeting was completely inappropriate.

A. poorish B. moorish C. boorish D. flourish

LIVEWORKSHEETS

56. The company decided to _____ a new marketing campaign to boost sales.

A. launch B. lurch C. lunch D. lynch

57. The witness's testimony proved to be _____ to the case.

A. instrumental B. detrimental C. experimental D. ornamental

58. She has a _____ for getting herself into difficult situations.

A. neck B. knock C. knack D. nick

59. The economic downturn has _____ havoc on small businesses.

A. wreaked B. reeked C. wrecked D. racked

60. The politician's _____ promises failed to convince the electorate.

A. gratitude B. granular C. gradient D. grandiose

61. We need to _____ our resources more effectively to achieve our goals.

A. deploy B. decoy C. destroy D. delay

62. The company's _____ approach to innovation has kept it ahead of competitors.

A. pioneering B. pinpointing C. patronizing D. paralyzing

63. He got the job because he really stood _____ from the other candidates.

A. in B. down C. out D. away

64. My flight was delayed, so I had to _____ my meeting.

A. put up B. put in C. put off D. put away

65. They moved to the countryside to enjoy a quieter _____ of life.

A. rhythm B. speed C. rate D. pace

66. We were told to keep _____ from the construction site.

A. away B. along C. across D. through

67. He was very nervous before the interview, but he tried to keep a straight _____.

A. mouth B. hand C. face D. look

68. She finally broke _____ and told us what was wrong.

A. away B. in C. through D. down

69. It's important to _____ a good impression at a job interview.

A. create B. leave C. make D. do

70. That movie was really boring – it was a real _____.

A. sleeper B. snorer C. drag D. bore

71. I can't _____ the difference between these two photos.

A. do B. tell C. make D. say

72. We can't afford a new car right now – money is _____.

A. tight B. strong C. limited D. strict

73. You don't have to decide now. Just _____ it over and tell me tomorrow.

A. turn B. speak C. think D. work

74. We arrived just in _____ to catch the last train.

A. moment B. time C. hurry D. minute

LIVEWORKSHEETS

75. I had to learn the speech by _____.

A. memory B. brain C. heart D. head

76. I usually get along well with my classmates, but today I'm not in the _____ for talking.

A. feel B. spirit C. mind D. mood

77. Can you give me a _____ with this box? It's really heavy.

A. push B. lift C. hand D. pull

78. I'm afraid I can't come to the party. Something has _____ up.

A. moved B. come C. shown D. picked

79. She's always early – she doesn't like being _____ time.

A. out of B. off C. late for D. behind

80. The weather was so bad that we had to _____ the picnic.

A. cancel B. call C. take D. end

81. This coffee is too hot to drink – I'll let it _____ for a bit.

A. chill B. sit C. cool D. freeze

82. We stayed in a small hotel by the _____.

A. sea B. beach C. shore D. coast

83. It's not polite to talk with your mouth _____.

A. wide B. open C. full D. eating

84. She wasn't interested at first, but I managed to talk her _____.

A. in B. over C. out D. up

85. I always take my phone _____ in case I get lost.

A. on B. along C. up D. around

86. He's very good at solving problems – he always keeps a cool _____.

A. brain B. head C. face D. mind

87. The collapse of the company will have ____ for the whole industry.

A. repetitions B. repercussions C. reflections D. reformations

88. The book was really interesting – I read it from cover to _____.

A. back B. bottom C. start D. end

89. He didn't mean to hurt you – it was just a slip of the _____.

A. mouth B. tongue C. speech D. voice

90. I need to _____ my Spanish before the trip to Mexico.

A. bring up B. break out C. brush up D. build on

91. You should _____ your shoes before entering the house.

A. leave B. take off C. put down D. step off

92. Please keep _____ while I'm speaking.

A. quiet B. low C. calm D. silent

93. Don't worry – it's not a big _____.

A. thing B. matter C. deal D. issue

LIVEWORKSHEETS

94. She has a very good _____ for names and faces.

A. knowledge B. memory C. brain D. attention

95. We finally _____ an agreement after hours of discussion.

A. came B. reached C. did D. found

96. He left the room without saying a _____.

A. word B. thing C. speak D. message

97. I _____ across some old photos while cleaning the attic.

A. came B. got C. looked D. went

98. It's not a good idea to _____ up problems from the past.

A. raise B. pull C. bring D. push

99. His jokes always crack me _____, even when I'm sad.

A. on B. over C. down D. up

100. The child's ____ questions were beginning to get on her nerves.

A. consistent B. recurrent C. persistent D. pertinent

LIVEWORKSHEETS