

Complete the exercise below with the words from the word box.

<b>unparalleled</b>	<b>long-standing</b>	<b>feast on</b>	<b>consensus</b>
<b>bemused</b>	<b>Felling</b>	<b>preposterous</b>	<b>urbanization</b>
<b>criticality</b>	<b>life expectancy</b>	<b>roll out</b>	<b>as opposed to</b>

1. 'Oh my! You should've talked to me directly about such an important matter, \_\_\_\_\_ dropping mysterious hints that nobody but a cryptologist could have understood!' a worried husband said to his newly pregnant wife.
2. Since English is a global language with a variety of accents, vocabulary and other regional differences, it is unavoidable that speakers from different places would sometimes be \_\_\_\_\_ by one another's ways of speaking.
3. After three days of closed-door negotiations, the trade unions and the representatives of the private enterprises finally reached a \_\_\_\_\_ on the following year's salary increase rate.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of postpartum confinement, a traditional practice after childbirth known as 'sitting the month', is highly regarded in Chinese culture.
5. In Emirates Palace, a hotel in Abu Dhabi that is considered one of the world's most luxurious, guests may \_\_\_\_\_ the specially designed buffet dinners and enjoy many other stellar services.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ trees on a large scale has immediate consequences that cannot be reversed in a short time: not only does it destroy the beauty of the landscape, it also leads to soil erosion and the relatively low air quality within the area.
7. According to recent studies, smoking reduces \_\_\_\_\_ for smokers by at least ten years (and for heavy smokers by thirteen years), as it can be held responsible for a vast variety of illnesses and medical conditions, such as cancers, high blood pressure and strokes.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ conflicts between different racial groups in the United States result partly from the fact that many racist attitudes and stereotypes are yet to be addressed or steered clear of.
9. Some environmentalists argue that it is \_\_\_\_\_ to increase the use of paper as a way to reduce our reliance on plastic as overconsumption of paper is precisely one of those things that they are fighting against.
10. Income taxes come as the major source of government revenue. As a result, with a view to reforming the country's healthcare system, the government is set to \_\_\_\_\_ a series of tax measures in the coming financial year.
11. The recent death of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of a white police officer has stirred up \_\_\_\_\_ anger among people in the United States who are concerned about racial injustice.
12. To many Hong Kong people, especially the younger generations, \_\_\_\_\_ is a process they probably heard many things about but have no first-hand experience of, as the city had already been highly urbanised when they were born.