The Dos and Don’ts of Writing an Original TV Pilot - Reading
(http://masteringfilm.com/the-dos-and-donts-of-writing-an-original-tv-pilot/)

Part 1
Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

consistent  stand out  devices  infinite  introduce

Pilots Do’s
Do find a premise that’s fresh and original. Mimicking what’s already on television will not make you stand out in the writing crowd.

Do choose a premise that has infinite story possibilities. Networks crave long-running series like Law & Order and Friends.

Do set up the series franchise. Your pilot script should act as a blueprint for the entire series. It should introduce the premise, characters and structure that will come into play on a weekly basis. Only use flashbacks, voiceovers, or other clever storytelling devices if you envision them in future episodes.

Do be sure your characters talk in distinct, consistent voices. If a character speaks in slang he must always speak in slang.

Which highlighted words from the text mean:

a) a right to sell a company’s products in a particular area using the company’s name
b) an early plan or design that explains how something might be achieved
c) an idea or theory on which a statement or action is based
d) to have a strong feeling of wanting something

Fill in the gaps with words a-d:
Many young children often crave their parents’ attention.
The experiment is based on the premise that children learn faster than adults.
He opened a restaurant but has to pay fees for the franchise.
The Ministry is working on a blueprint on how to reform the education system.
Part 2

Use the words in brackets to form a word that fits in the space in the same line

Pilot Don’ts
Don’t hold back too much information. If you’re thinking about dropping a big bomb in Season 5, episode 10, and then everyone will “get it”, think again. When readers are confused (CONFUSION) by a lack of information in your pilot script, there won’t be a season 1.

Don’t make the pilot episode all about backstory. The characters should be in motion (MOVE) when we meet them, and backstories should emerge in natural, character-specific dialogue.

Don’t write a pilot that will only be of interest to a limited (LIMIT) audience. Tapping into c universal themes and future trends will ensure (SURE) more viewers, which, for networks translates into more advertising dollars.

Don’t be shy. In this racy age of television, bold and daring will take you a lot further (FAR) than bland. Executives would much rather read an edgier sample that proves you have the to take chances and push the envelope. a

Which highlighted expressions from the text mean:

a) to go further than the usual limits by doing something new, dangerous, etc
b) to announce shocking news
c) to manage to use something in a way that brings good results

Fill in the gaps with expressions a-c:

With this new product the company is trying to tap into the Asian market.

Maybe you should talk to your parents about your plans instead of just dropping a bomb on them.

Some teachers really push the envelope when they fraternise with their students outside of class.
What was so good about these TV pilots? - Listening

Fill in the gaps with words you hear.
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgfZW3HYhys)

10. The X-Files
It showcases the partners’ chemistry.

9. 24
It throws the audience into the action.

8. Mad Men
It has intelligent writing and retro tone.

7. Prison Break
It offered pulse-pounding action and thrilling suspense.

6. The Walking Dead
It has a cliffhanger ending.

5. Game of Thrones
It was highly anticipated.
It combines stunning visuals and epic fantasy elements.

4. The Sopranos
It shows excellent writing, acting and directing.

3. Twin Peaks
It is praised for its creation of mystery and disturbing storylines.

2. Breaking Bad
It introduces the audience to the complicated world of the protagonist.

1. Lost
It’s regarded one of the best pilots in the TV history due to its special effects and outstanding cast.