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Iseult Gillespie: The tragic myth of the Sun God's son
| TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_the_tragic_myth_of_the_sun_god_s_son

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

unleash

v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

synonym: discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in pursuit of an enemy.

chariot

n. a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing

(1) **chariot** builder, (2) **chariot** race

The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating **chariot** races.

nymph

n. (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform

synonym: sprite, fairy, pixie

(1) **nymph** of the woods, (2) water **nymph**

The sea **nymphs** were said to lure sailors with their seductive voices.

temper

n. a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object

synonym : mood, disposition, nature

(1) a hasty **temper**, (2) bridle my **temper**

The **temper** of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.

arrogance

n. excessive self-confidence or self-importance

synonym : hubris, haughtiness, conceit

(1) brazen **arrogance**, (2) **arrogance** of power

He acted with **arrogance** and was not well-liked by his colleagues.

taunt

v. to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner

synonym : tease, ridicule, jeer

(1) **taunt** him with cowardice, (2) **taunt** the losing team

She **taunted** him with sarcastic comments about his lack of success.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym : grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

westward

adj. directed or going towards the west; located in the west; moving or facing towards the west

synonym : western, westerly, westbound

(1) **westward** expansion, (2) **westward** migration

Lewis and Clark's **westward** journey was an important exploration of the newly acquired Louisiana Territory.

gleam

v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

synonym : glitter, shimmer, shine

(1) **gleam** in eyes, (2) **gleam** like honey

The diamond ring **gleamed** in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.

radiant

adj. emitting light or heat; shining brightly

synonym : shining, glowing, brilliant

(1) **radiant** smile, (2) **radiant** light

She looked **radiant** on her wedding day.

skepticism

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

synonym : distrust, doubt, suspicion

(1) natural **skepticism**, (2) **skepticism** toward bureaucracy

This party expresses **skepticism** about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

dispel

v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

synonym : chase away, allay, disperse

(1) **dispel** a painful feeling, (2) **dispel** baseless rumors

This program aims to **dispel** certain misconceptions about the disease.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym : guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

celestial

adj. relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens

synonym : heavenly, divine, ethereal

(1) **celestial** bliss, (2) **celestial** navigation

The **celestial** bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

catastrophe

n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

synonym: disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

reconsider

v. to think about a decision or opinion again to

synonym: rethink, review, revisit

(1) **reconsider** the determination, (2) **reconsider** my transfer

He humbly **reconsidered** his conduct.

steadfast

adj. firm, unwavering, or determined in purpose or belief; resolute and loyal even in the face of adversity or challenges

synonym: unwavering, resolute, steadfast

(1) **steadfast** commitment, (2) **steadfast** determination

The **steadfast** soldier refused to leave his post despite the danger.

rein

n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

synonym: strap, harness, headstall

(1) tight **rein**, (2) **rein** in costs

The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the **rein** as the horse bolted.

insecure

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

synonym : uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

slacken

v. to become less tight or tense; to slow down or decrease in speed or intensity; to show a decline in effort or performance

synonym : relax, ease up, let up

(1) **slacken** pace, (2) never **slacken** on implementing reforms

The driver refused to **slacken** his speed, despite the dangerous road conditions.

feathery

adj. having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance

synonym : fluffy, plumed, downy

(1) **feathery** fronds, (2) delicate **feathery**

The **feathery** leaves of the plant gently swayed in the breeze.

whirl

v. to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature

synonym : spin, rotate, swirl

(1) **whirl** in the washing machine, (2) **whirl** around the dance floor

The leaves began to **whirl** around in the windy weather.

constellation

n. a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

synonym : asterism, array, pattern

(1) the stars of the Scorpion **constellation**, (2) northern **constellation**

Navigators still use the Little Bear **constellation** at sea.

pincers

- n.* a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing

synonym : pliers, tweezers, forceps

- (1) scorpion **pincers**, (2) grip with **pincers**

The handyman used his trusty **pincers** to remove the rusty nails from the old boards.

crackle

- v.* to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity

synonym : sizzle, hiss, snap

- (1) **crackle** on the gravel road, (2) the **crackle** of the thunder

The firewood **crackled** and popped into the fireplace, sending sparks up the chimney.

startle

- v.* to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event

synonym : frighten, shock, surprise

- (1) **startle** for a moment, (2) **startle** the world

The loud bang outside the window caused him to **startle** and spill his coffee.

lurch

- v.* to make a sudden, abrupt movement; to stagger or sway unsteadily; to experience a sudden change or reversal; (noun) a sudden, unsteady, or awkward movement or motion, often to one side or another

synonym : stumble, reel, stagger

- (1) a **lurch** in the stock market, (2) **lurch** back and forth

The car suddenly **lurched** forward as we hit a pothole.

plunge

v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

synonym: dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

destine

v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

synonym: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

ablaze

adj. on fire; burning brightly

synonym: burning, alight, on fire

(1) sky **ablaze** with stars, (2) **ablaze** with passion

The building was **ablaze** with fire.

hurl

v. to throw something with great force

synonym: throw, fling, launch

(1) **hurl** a brickbat, (2) **hurl** a cup out of the window

She angrily **hurled** the book across the room.

thunderbolt

n. a powerful and loud electrical discharge in the atmosphere, usually accompanied by lightning; a sudden and unexpected event or experience that is shocking or overwhelming

synonym: lightning bolt, electrical discharge, thunder stroke

(1) **thunderbolt** strike, (2) **thunderbolt** out of the blue

The sudden **thunderbolt** scared the hikers and made them seek shelter.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

resurface

v. to restore or repair the surface of something, particularly a road, pavement, or sports field; to come to the surface or become visible again after a period of obscurity or concealment

synonym: renew, restore, revamp

(1) **resurface** more than once, (2) **resurface** a tennis court

The city plans to **resurface** the roads downtown to fix potholes and cracks.

riverbank

n. the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes

synonym: riverside, embankment

(1) **riverbank** erosion, (2) walk along the **riverbank**

We enjoyed a picnic on the **riverbank** and watched the boats go by.

weep

v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

synonym: cry, sob, mourn

(1) **weep** bitter tears, (2) **weep** for joy

I'm easily moved to tears, so I would **weep** in sympathy if I saw that movie.

metamorphose

v. to undergo a dramatic change in form, structure, or substance; to transform or alter in appearance or nature

synonym: transform, change, alter

(1) **metamorphose** in appearance, (2) **metamorphose** over time

The caterpillar **metamorphoses** into a butterfly during its life

cycle.

poplar

n. a type of deciduous tree with soft, light-colored wood and large, flat leaves that tremble in the wind, often used for plywood, furniture, or paper pulp

synonym: aspen, cottonwood, balsam

(1) **poplar** trees, (2) **poplar** wood

The sound of the wind rustling through the leaves of the **poplar** trees was calming and peaceful.

everlasting

adj. lasting forever or indefinitely; eternal or infinite in duration, also used to describe something unchanging, constant, or enduring

synonym: perpetual, eternal, enduring

(1) **everlasting** love, (2) **everlasting** memories

The writer's words left an **everlasting** impact on his readers.

strew

v. to scatter or spread things over an area; to scatter something in an untidy way

synonym: scatter, sprinkle, disperse

(1) **strew** the room with balloons, (2) **strew** garbage

The wind **strew** the leaves all over the lawn.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym: welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. a tra_____ry missile | <i>n.</i> the curved path followed by an object moving through space |
| 2. avoid climate cat_____he | <i>n.</i> a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune |
| 3. delicate fe_____ry | <i>adj.</i> having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance |
| 4. a hasty te____r | <i>n.</i> a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object |
| 5. an in_____re future | <i>adj.</i> not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety |
| 6. pl____e into the water | <i>v.</i> to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall |
| 7. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy | <i>n.</i> an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge |
| 8. water ny__h | <i>n.</i> (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform |
| 9. rec_____er my transfer | <i>v.</i> to think about a decision or opinion again to |

ANSWERS: 1. trajectory, 2. catastrophe, 3. feathery, 4. temper, 5. insecure, 6. plunge, 7. skepticism, 8. nymph, 9. reconsider

10. ri_____nk erosion *n.* the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes
11. ab___e with passion *adj.* on fire; burning brightly
12. the stars of the Scorpion
con_____ion *n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
13. be de_____ed to become a great artist *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
14. ra_____t light *adj.* emitting light or heat; shining brightly
15. rec_____er the determination *v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to
16. di___l a painful feeling *v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea
17. r__n in costs *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
18. never sl_____n on implementing reforms *v.* to become less tight or tense; to slow down or decrease in speed or intensity; to show a decline in effort or performance

ANSWERS: 10. riverbank, 11. ablaze, 12. constellation, 13. destine, 14. radiant, 15. reconsider, 16. dispel, 17. rein, 18. slacken

19. h__l a cup out of the window *v.* to throw something with great force
20. thu_____lt strike *n.* a powerful and loud electrical discharge in the atmosphere, usually accompanied by lightning; a sudden and unexpected event or experience that is shocking or overwhelming
21. ce_____al bliss *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
22. ar_____ce of power *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
23. ce_____al navigation *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
24. wh__l in the washing machine *v.* to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature
25. met_____ose in appearance *v.* to undergo a dramatic change in form, structure, or substance; to transform or alter in appearance or nature
26. we_____rd migration *adj.* directed or going towards the west; located in the west; moving or facing towards the west
27. po___r trees *n.* a type of deciduous tree with soft, light-colored wood and large, flat leaves that tremble in the wind, often used for plywood, furniture, or paper pulp
28. w__p for joy *v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
29. re_____ce more than once *v.* to restore or repair the surface of something, particularly a road, pavement, or sports field; to come to the surface or become visible again after a period of obscurity or concealment

ANSWERS: 19. hurl, 20. thunderbolt, 21. celestial, 22. arrogance, 23. celestial, 24. whirl, 25. metamorphose, 26. westward, 27. poplar, 28. weep, 29. resurface

30. thu_____lt out of the blue *n.* a powerful and loud electrical discharge in the atmosphere, usually accompanied by lightning; a sudden and unexpected event or experience that is shocking or overwhelming
31. gl__m in eyes *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
32. met_____ose over time *v.* to undergo a dramatic change in form, structure, or substance; to transform or alter in appearance or nature
33. eve_____ng memories *adj.* lasting forever or indefinitely; eternal or infinite in duration, also used to describe something unchanging, constant, or enduring
34. we_____rd expansion *adj.* directed or going towards the west; located in the west; moving or facing towards the west
35. in_____re attachment *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
36. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
37. pl_____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
38. ra_____t smile *adj.* emitting light or heat; shining brightly
39. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

ANSWERS: 30. thunderbolt, 31. gleam, 32. metamorphose, 33. everlasting, 34. westward, 35. insecure, 36. steer, 37. plummet, 38. radiant, 39. catastrophe

40. walk along the ri_____nk *n.* the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes
41. ny__h of the woods *n.* (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform
42. bridle my te____r *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
43. pl____e a dagger through his heart *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
44. wh__l around the dance floor *v.* to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature
45. scorpion pi____s *n.* a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing
46. tight r__n *n.* a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control

ANSWERS: 40. riverbank, 41. nymph, 42. temper, 43. plunge, 44. whirl, 45. pincers, 46. rein

47. sky ab___e with stars *adj.* on fire; burning brightly
48. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
49. h__l a brickbat *v.* to throw something with great force
50. st_____e the world *v.* to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
51. gl__m like honey *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
52. st__w the room with balloons *v.* to scatter or spread things over an area; to scatter something in an untidy way
53. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
54. re_____ce a tennis court *v.* to restore or repair the surface of something, particularly a road, pavement, or sports field; to come to the surface or become visible again after a period of obscurity or concealment
55. fe_____ry fronds *adj.* having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance
56. ta__t him with cowardice *v.* to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner

ANSWERS: 47. ablaze, 48. greet, 49. hurl, 50. startle, 51. gleam, 52. strew, 53. trajectory, 54. resurface, 55. feathery, 56. taunt

57. cr____e on the gravel road v. to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity
58. sl____n pace v. to become less tight or tense; to slow down or decrease in speed or intensity; to show a decline in effort or performance
59. a lu__h in the stock market v. to make a sudden, abrupt movement; to stagger or sway unsteadily; to experience a sudden change or reversal; (noun) a sudden, unsteady, or awkward movement or motion, often to one side or another
60. ta__t the losing team v. to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner
61. un____h her anger v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
62. de____e us to meet again v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

ANSWERS: 57. crackle, 58. slacken, 59. lurch, 60. taunt, 61. unleash, 62. destine

63. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
64. natural ske_____sm *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
65. pl_____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
66. northern con_____ion *n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
67. ch_____t race *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
68. eve_____ng love *adj.* lasting forever or indefinitely; eternal or infinite in duration, also used to describe something unchanging, constant, or enduring
69. grip with pi_____s *n.* a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing
70. di___l baseless rumors *v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

ANSWERS: 63. seize, 64. skepticism, 65. plummet, 66. constellation, 67. chariot, 68. everlasting, 69. pincers, 70. dispel

71. st__r a conversation v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
72. st____e for a moment v. to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
73. lu__h back and forth v. to make a sudden, abrupt movement; to stagger or sway unsteadily; to experience a sudden change or reversal; (noun) a sudden, unsteady, or awkward movement or motion, often to one side or another
74. un____h a hound v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
75. st____st determination *adj.* firm, unwavering, or determined in purpose or belief; resolute and loyal even in the face of adversity or challenges
76. st____st commitment *adj.* firm, unwavering, or determined in purpose or belief; resolute and loyal even in the face of adversity or challenges
77. w__p bitter tears v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
78. st__w garbage v. to scatter or spread things over an area; to scatter something in an untidy way
79. gr__t an idea v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

ANSWERS: 71. steer, 72. startle, 73. lurch, 74. unleash, 75. steadfast, 76. steadfast, 77. weep, 78. strew, 79. greet

80. po___r wood *n.* a type of deciduous tree with soft, light-colored wood and large, flat leaves that tremble in the wind, often used for plywood, furniture, or paper pulp
81. the cr_____e of the thunder *v.* to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity
82. brazen ar_____ce *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
83. ch_____t builder *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
84. se__e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

ANSWERS: 80. poplar, 81. crackle, 82. arrogance, 83. chariot, 84. seize

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sound of the wind rustling through the leaves of the _____ trees was calming and peaceful.
 - n.* a type of deciduous tree with soft, light-colored wood and large, flat leaves that tremble in the wind, often used for plywood, furniture, or paper pulp
2. He acted with _____ and was not well-liked by his colleagues.
 - n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
3. Navigators still use the Little Bear _____ at sea.
 - n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
4. The sudden _____ scared the hikers and made them seek shelter.
 - n.* a powerful and loud electrical discharge in the atmosphere, usually accompanied by lightning; a sudden and unexpected event or experience that is shocking or overwhelming
5. The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating _____ races.
 - n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
6. The firewood _____ and popped into the fireplace, sending sparks up the chimney.
 - v.* to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity

ANSWERS: 1. poplar, 2. arrogance, 3. constellation, 4. thunderbolt, 5. chariot, 6. crackled

7. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.
- v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
8. The handyman used his trusty _____ to remove the rusty nails from the old boards.
- n. a tool or instrument with two limbs or jaws that are jointed together and used for gripping and holding objects; the claws or appendages of certain creatures that are used for grasping, gripping, or crushing
9. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
- n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
10. The general was still reluctant to _____ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.
- v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
11. The company's profits _____ after the recall of their new product.
- v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
12. The new driver struggled to keep a firm grip on the _____ as the horse bolted.
- n. a long, narrow strap attached to a horse's bit, used to control the animal while riding; a means of controlling or limiting something or someone's actions and behavior; (verb) to control or restrain something, especially something that is becoming excessive or out of control
13. She looked _____ on her wedding day.
- adj. emitting light or heat; shining brightly
14. This program aims to _____ certain misconceptions about the disease.
- v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

ANSWERS: 7. seize, 8. pincers, 9. trajectory, 10. unleash, 11. plunged, 12. rein, 13. radiant, 14. dispel

15. The leaves began to _____ around in the windy weather.
- v. to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature
16. She _____ him with sarcastic comments about his lack of success.
- v. to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner
17. The loud bang outside the window caused him to _____ and spill his coffee.
- v. to cause a sudden or unexpected reaction of surprise, alarm, or fear in someone, typically by means of a sudden and loud noise, movement, or event
18. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.
- v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
19. The _____ of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
- n. a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
20. The car suddenly _____ forward as we hit a pothole.
- v. to make a sudden, abrupt movement; to stagger or sway unsteadily; to experience a sudden change or reversal; (noun) a sudden, unsteady, or awkward movement or motion, often to one side or another
21. She angrily _____ the book across the room.
- v. to throw something with great force
22. The diamond ring _____ in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.
- v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

ANSWERS: 15. whirl, 16. taunted, 17. startle, 18. steer, 19. temper, 20. lurched, 21. hurled, 22. gleamed

23. Some people believe that we are all _____ for greatness.
- v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
24. The sea _____ were said to lure sailors with their seductive voices.
- n. (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform
25. The caterpillar _____ into a butterfly during its life cycle.
- v. to undergo a dramatic change in form, structure, or substance; to transform or alter in appearance or nature
26. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
- v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
27. The driver refused to _____ his speed, despite the dangerous road conditions.
- v. to become less tight or tense; to slow down or decrease in speed or intensity; to show a decline in effort or performance
28. The lack of funds has resulted in a _____ for our university system.
- n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
29. I'm easily moved to tears, so I would _____ in sympathy if I saw that movie.
- v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
30. The writer's words left an _____ impact on his readers.
- adj. lasting forever or indefinitely; eternal or infinite in duration, also used to describe something unchanging, constant, or enduring

ANSWERS: 23. destined, 24. nymphs, 25. metamorphoses, 26. greeted, 27. slacken, 28. catastrophe, 29. weep, 30. everlasting

31. He humbly _____ his conduct.

v. to think about a decision or opinion again to

32. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

33. Lewis and Clark's _____ journey was an important exploration of the newly acquired Louisiana Territory.

adj. directed or going towards the west; located in the west; moving or facing towards the west

34. The wind _____ the leaves all over the lawn.

v. to scatter or spread things over an area; to scatter something in an untidy way

35. This party expresses _____ about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

36. The _____ leaves of the plant gently swayed in the breeze.

adj. having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance

37. The _____ bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.

adj. relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens

38. We enjoyed a picnic on the _____ and watched the boats go by.

n. the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 31. reconsidered, 32. insecure, 33. westward, 34. strew, 35. skepticism, 36. feathery, 37. celestial, 38. riverbank

39. The building was _____ with fire.

adj. on fire; burning brightly

40. The _____ soldier refused to leave his post despite the danger.

adj. firm, unwavering, or determined in purpose or belief; resolute and loyal even in the face of adversity or challenges

41. The city plans to _____ the roads downtown to fix potholes and cracks.

v. to restore or repair the surface of something, particularly a road, pavement, or sports field; to come to the surface or become visible again after a period of obscurity or concealment

42. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

ANSWERS: 39. ablaze, 40. steadfast, 41. resurface, 42. plummeted