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Iseult Gillespie: The Japanese folktale of the selfish scholar | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

devout

adj. deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety

synonym : pious, religious, faithful

(1) **devout** Buddhist, (2) act in a **devout** manner

The **devout** monk spent hours each day in prayer and contemplation.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym : preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

bustle

v. to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion

synonym : hurry, rush, flurry

(1) **bustle** around a kitchen, (2) hustle- **bustle** lifestyle

The city **bustled** with activity as people rushed to work.

pollute

v. to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste

matter or harmful chemicals

synonym : contaminate, corrupt, degrade

(1) **pollute** the air, (2) **pollute** the thread

We should do our best not to **pollute** the environment.

cleanse

v. to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body

synonym : purify, detoxify, sanitize

(1) juice **cleanse**, (2) **cleanse** the face

The new diet is designed to **cleanse** toxins from the body.

revered

v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

synonym : respected, admired, honored

(1) **revered** figure, (2) the most **revered** President

The **revered** teacher was loved by her students.

hie

v. to go quickly or hastily; to hasten or hurry

synonym : rush, hurry, hasten

(1) **hie** to work, (2) **hie** up the mountain early

To avoid traffic, we decided to **hie** to the meeting using the back roads.

shrine

n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship

synonym : altar, temple, monument

(1) **shrine** temple, (2) religious **shrine**

The holy **shrine** to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.

arduous

adj. requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring, often involving physical or mental labor

synonym : challenging, difficult, strenuous

(1) **arduous** task, (2) an **arduous** journey

The climb up the mountain was **arduous** and took us hours to complete.

solitude

n. the state of being alone and isolated from others

synonym: isolation, seclusion, loneliness

(1) live in **solitude**, (2) enjoyment of **solitude**

He sought **solitude** in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

pilgrim

n. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion

synonym: traveler, wayfarer, sojourner

(1) shrine for **pilgrims**, (2) **pilgrim** site

The group of **pilgrims** walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

stray

v. to move about aimlessly or without any destination; to move away from the right course or place where you should be

synonym: deviate, err, depart

(1) **stray** beyond the confines, (2) **stray** from a rule
Tourists often get lost and **stray** into a restricted area.

sear

v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

synonym: scorch, cook, burn

(1) **sear** tissue using a hot iron, (2) **sear** the memory into your mind

Be careful not to **sear** the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

underfoot

adv. in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet

synonym: beneath one's feet

(1) snow **underfoot**, (2) leaves **underfoot**

The muddy terrain made it difficult to walk **underfoot**.

graze

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

synonym: nibble, feed, scrape

(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder
The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.

polluted

adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
synonym: contaminated, poisoned, unclean

(1) **polluted** air, (2) cadmium- **polluted** area

The river was **polluted** with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.

keg

n. a small barrel or cask, typically made of metal or wood, that is used for storing and transporting liquids, especially beer;

synonym: cask, barrel, pail

(1) powder **keg**, (2) **keg** of beer

He had to return the empty **keg** to the brewery after the party.

defile

v. to pollute, contaminate, or make impure, often in a moral or religious sense; to violate or desecrate something sacred or cherished

synonym: pollute, taint, contaminate

(1) **defile** a river, (2) **defile** the land

The vandals **defiled** the church by spray-painting graffiti on the walls.

strained

adj. tight, tense, or stretched; under pressure or stress; characterized by a lack of ease or naturalness

synonym: tense, tight, forced

(1) **strained** relationship, (2) **strained** muscles

The musician's face showed a **strained** expression as he struggled to hit the high note.

sob

v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds

synonym: cry, weep, wail

(1) **sob** out a story, (2) **sob** quietly

She **sobbed** uncontrollably after hearing the news.

moan

v. to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something

synonym : groan, sigh, lament

(1) **moan** the current situation, (2) **moan** with pleasure

She **moaned** in pain as the doctor examined her injury.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym : conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

cramped

adj. not having enough space for the people in it; uncomfortably small or restricted

synonym : congested, overcrowded, narrow

(1) feel **cramped**, (2) a **cramped** house

She writes a **cramped** hand.

cot

n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out

synonym : bed, bunk, pallet

(1) **cot** in the tent, (2) baby's **cot**

The hospital provides **cots** for patients' families who want to stay overnight.

crumple

v. to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

synonym : crinkle, crush, mash

(1) **crumple** paper, (2) **crumple** clothes

The car **crumpled** after colliding with the tree.

implore

v. to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy

synonym : beg, beseech, plead

(1) **implore** forgiveness, (2) **implore** assistance

I **implore** you to reconsider your decision before it's too late.

forsake

v. to abandon or renounce someone or something, often permanently or in a final way; to give up or relinquish a pursuit or course of action

synonym: abandon, desert, renounce

(1) **forsake** a friend, (2) **forsake** bad habits

He decided to **forsake** his career and travel the world instead.

soar

v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

synonym: fly, rise, ascend

(1) **soar** in popularity, (2) **soar** to new heights

The bird **soared** through the sky, and its wings spread wide.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

shirk

v. to avoid or neglect one's responsibilities or duties; to evade or dodge something that one is expected or required to do

synonym: avoid, dodge, evade

(1) **shirk** moral obligation, (2) **shirk** their duties

I can't **shirk** my work responsibilities, even when taking a break is tempting.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym: bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

torment

n. unbearable physical pain or extreme mental distress;
(verb) to cause severe physical or mental suffering to someone, or to be the victim of such suffering

synonym : pain, suffering, agony

(1) **torment** of jealousy, (2) economic **torment**

The torturers inflicted great **torment** upon the prisoners.

daring

adj. brave and taking risks

synonym : audacious, bold, venturesome

(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face

Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

impure

adj. mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters

synonym : contaminated, polluted, unclean

(1) **impure** water, (2) **impure** thoughts

In some religions, pork is deemed **impure**.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym : murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves

He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

shun

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

synonym : avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

mingle

v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner

synonym : mix, blend, merge

(1) **mingle** with colleagues, (2) **mingle** with the locals

I decided to **mingle** with the crowd and converse with some new people.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. religious sh___e | <i>n.</i> a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship |
| 2. po____ed air | <i>adj.</i> contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances |
| 3. an____e his soul | <i>v.</i> to make something full of interest and energy |
| 4. im___e thoughts | <i>adj.</i> mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters |
| 5. the wh____r of the leaves | <i>v.</i> to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you |
| 6. im____e assistance | <i>v.</i> to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy |
| 7. answer in a wh____r | <i>v.</i> to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you |
| 8. cor____le officials | <i>adj.</i> capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral |
| 9. sh___e temple | <i>n.</i> a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship |

ANSWERS: 1. shrine, 2. polluted, 3. animate, 4. impure, 5. whisper, 6. implore, 7. whisper, 8. corruptible, 9. shrine

10. baby's c_t *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
11. de___e a river *v.* to pollute, contaminate, or make impure, often in a moral or religious sense; to violate or desecrate something sacred or cherished
12. s__r tissue using a hot iron *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
13. de___t Buddhist *adj.* deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety
14. sh__k their duties *v.* to avoid or neglect one's responsibilities or duties; to evade or dodge something that one is expected or required to do
15. cr_____e paper *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
16. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
17. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
18. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

ANSWERS: 10. cot, 11. defile, 12. sear, 13. devout, 14. shirk, 15. crumple, 16. distracted, 17. bury, 18. corruptible

19. make a da___g face *adj.* brave and taking risks
20. im___e water *adj.* mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters
21. k_g of beer *n.* a small barrel or cask, typically made of metal or wood, that is used for storing and transporting liquids, especially beer;
22. turn cattle out to gr__e *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
23. mi___e with the locals *v.* to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
24. po_____e the thread *v.* to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
25. h_e up the mountain early *v.* to go quickly or hastily; to hasten or hurry
26. im_____e forgiveness *v.* to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy
27. powder k_g *n.* a small barrel or cask, typically made of metal or wood, that is used for storing and transporting liquids, especially beer;
28. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 19. daring, 20. impure, 21. keg, 22. graze, 23. mingle, 24. pollute, 25. hie, 26. implore, 27. keg, 28. overwhelm

29. di_____ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
30. st__y from a rule *v.* to move about aimlessly or without any destination; to move away from the right course or place where you should be
31. s_b quietly *v.* to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
32. s__r to new heights *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
33. cl_____e the face *v.* to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body
34. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
35. act in a de____t manner *adj.* deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety
36. a cr_____d house *adj.* not having enough space for the people in it; uncomfortably small or restricted
37. st_____ed muscles *adj.* tight, tense, or stretched; under pressure or stress; characterized by a lack of ease or naturalness
38. leaves un_____ot *adv.* in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet
39. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 29. distract, 30. stray, 31. sob, 32. soar, 33. cleanse, 34. distract, 35. devout, 36. cramped, 37. strained, 38. underfoot, 39. overwhelm

40. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
41. de___e the land *v.* to pollute, contaminate, or make impure, often in a moral or religious sense; to violate or desecrate something sacred or cherished
42. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
43. juice cl_____e *v.* to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body
44. gr___e the left shoulder *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
45. bu___e around a kitchen *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
46. cr_____e clothes *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

ANSWERS: 40. determinant, 41. defile, 42. rev, 43. cleanse, 44. graze, 45. bustle, 46. crumple

47. ar____s task *adj.* requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring, often involving physical or mental labor
48. feel cr____d *adj.* not having enough space for the people in it; uncomfortably small or restricted
49. pi____m site *n.* a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
50. shrine for pi____ms *n.* a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
51. enjoyment of so____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
52. st__y beyond the confines *v.* to move about aimlessly or without any destination; to move away from the right course or place where you should be
53. s_b out a story *v.* to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
54. sh__k moral obligation *v.* to avoid or neglect one's responsibilities or duties; to evade or dodge something that one is expected or required to do
55. s__n a person *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
56. m__n the current situation *v.* to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
57. hustle-bu____e lifestyle *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
58. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 47. arduous, 48. cramped, 49. pilgrim, 50. pilgrim, 51. solitude, 52. stray, 53. sob, 54. shirk, 55. shun, 56. moan, 57. bustle, 58. rev

59. mi___e with colleagues *v.* to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
60. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
61. fo_____e bad habits *v.* to abandon or renounce someone or something, often permanently or in a final way; to give up or relinquish a pursuit or course of action
62. an_____e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
63. to_____t of jealousy *n.* unbearable physical pain or extreme mental distress; (verb) to cause severe physical or mental suffering to someone, or to be the victim of such suffering
64. an ar_____s journey *adj.* requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring, often involving physical or mental labor
65. live in so _____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
66. cadmium-po_____ed area *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
67. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
68. the most re_____d President *v.* highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

ANSWERS: 59. mingle, 60. bury, 61. forsake, 62. animate, 63. torment, 64. arduous, 65. solitude, 66. polluted, 67. distracted, 68. revered

69. st____ed relationship *adj.* tight, tense, or stretched; under pressure or stress; characterized by a lack of ease or naturalness
70. fo____e a friend *v.* to abandon or renounce someone or something, often permanently or in a final way; to give up or relinquish a pursuit or course of action
71. c_t in the tent *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
72. re____d figure *v.* highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
73. m__n with pleasure *v.* to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
74. snow un____ot *adv.* in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet
75. da____g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
76. po____e the air *v.* to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
77. h_e to work *v.* to go quickly or hastily; to hasten or hurry
78. economic to____t *n.* unbearable physical pain or extreme mental distress; (verb) to cause severe physical or mental suffering to someone, or to be the victim of such suffering

ANSWERS: 69. strained, 70. forsake, 71. cot, 72. revered, 73. moan, 74. underfoot, 75. daring, 76. pollute, 77. hie, 78. torment

79. s__r in popularity *v.* to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease
80. s__r the memory into your mind *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
81. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
82. s__n office politics *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

ANSWERS: 79. soar, 80. sear, 81. determinant, 82. shun

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The musician's face showed a _____ expression as he struggled to hit the high note.
adj. tight, tense, or stretched; under pressure or stress; characterized by a lack of ease or naturalness
2. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
3. Be careful not to _____ the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.
v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
4. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
5. The city _____ with activity as people rushed to work.
v. to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
6. The car _____ after colliding with the tree.
v. to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
7. In some religions, pork is deemed _____.
adj. mixed with other substances or foreign matter; (of persons or behaviors) immoral or obscene, especially in sexual matters

ANSWERS: 1. strained, 2. bury, 3. sear, 4. distracted, 5. bustled, 6. crumpled, 7. impure

8. Tourists often get lost and _____ into a restricted area.
v. to move about aimlessly or without any destination; to move away from the right course or place where you should be
9. I _____ you to reconsider your decision before it's too late.
v. to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy
10. Her choices become increasingly _____ and creative.
adj. brave and taking risks
11. She _____ in pain as the doctor examined her injury.
v. to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
12. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
13. The torturers inflicted great _____ upon the prisoners.
n. unbearable physical pain or extreme mental distress; (verb) to cause severe physical or mental suffering to someone, or to be the victim of such suffering
14. She writes a _____ hand.
adj. not having enough space for the people in it; uncomfortably small or restricted
15. The bird _____ through the sky, and its wings spread wide.
v. to fly or rise very high or to a great height, often with great grace or ease

ANSWERS: 8. stray, 9. implore, 10. daring, 11. moaned, 12. rev, 13. torment, 14. cramped, 15. soared

16. We should do our best not to _____ the environment.
- v. to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
17. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
18. The hospital provides _____ for patients' families who want to stay overnight.
- n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
19. To avoid traffic, we decided to _____ to the meeting using the back roads.
- v. to go quickly or hastily; to hasten or hurry
20. She _____ uncontrollably after hearing the news.
- v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds
21. The _____ monk spent hours each day in prayer and contemplation.
- adj. deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety
22. The climb up the mountain was _____ and took us hours to complete.
- adj. requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring, often involving physical or mental labor
23. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
- v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 16. pollute, 17. determinant, 18. cots, 19. hie, 20. sobbed, 21. devout, 22. arduous, 23. distract

24. He _____ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.
v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
25. I can't _____ my work responsibilities, even when taking a break is tempting.
v. to avoid or neglect one's responsibilities or duties; to evade or dodge something that one is expected or required to do
26. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.
v. to make something full of interest and energy
27. The river was _____ with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.
adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
28. The sheep _____ on the green grass in the meadow.
v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
29. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.
v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
30. The vandals _____ the church by spray-painting graffiti on the walls.
v. to pollute, contaminate, or make impure, often in a moral or religious sense; to violate or desecrate something sacred or cherished
31. The muddy terrain made it difficult to walk _____.
adv. in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet
32. I decided to _____ with the crowd and converse with some new people.
v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner

ANSWERS: 24. shunned, 25. shirk, 26. animated, 27. polluted, 28. graze, 29. whispered, 30. defiled, 31. underfoot, 32. mingle

33. He sought _____ in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.
n. the state of being alone and isolated from others
34. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
35. He decided to _____ his career and travel the world instead.
v. to abandon or renounce someone or something, often permanently or in a final way; to give up or relinquish a pursuit or course of action
36. He had to return the empty ____ to the brewery after the party.
n. a small barrel or cask, typically made of metal or wood, that is used for storing and transporting liquids, especially beer;
37. The group of _____ walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.
n. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
38. The new diet is designed to _____ toxins from the body.
v. to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body
39. The holy _____ to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.
n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
40. The _____ teacher was loved by her students.
v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

ANSWERS: 33. solitude, 34. corruptible, 35. forsake, 36. keg, 37. pilgrims, 38. cleanse, 39. shrine, 40. revered

41. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.

- v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 41. overwhelm