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Iseult Gillespie: The myth of Ireland's two greatest warriors | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fable

n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

synonym: fantasy, story, legend

(1) classic **fable**, (2) moralize a **fable**

In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known **fable**.

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.

retaliation

n. the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act

synonym: retribution, revenge, vengeance

(1) **retaliation** tactics, (2) **retaliation** against discrimination

The company faced heavy **retaliation** from its competitors after releasing a controversial product.

cramp

n. a sudden, painful contraction or spasm of a muscle, typically in the leg or abdomen; a feeling of tightness or discomfort in a muscle caused by prolonged use or stress

synonym

: crick, spasm, twinge

(1) hand **cramp**, (2) stomach **cramp**

I had to stop running because of a severe **cramp** in my leg.

eerily

adv. in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements

synonym: spookily, strangely, creepily

(1) **eerily** accurate, (2) **eerily** atmospheric

The abandoned house was **eerily** silent as if someone was watching from within.

childbirth

n. the act or process of giving birth to a baby

synonym: delivery, labor, parturition

(1) natural **childbirth**, (2) assisted **childbirth**

He was present at the **childbirth** of his children.

rite

n. a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice

synonym: ceremony, ritual, practice

(1) perform the **rite**, (2) **rite** of passage into adulthood

The bishop performed the **rite** of consecration for the new church.

intruder

n. someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something

synonym: trespasser, intruder, interloper

(1) illegal **intruder**, (2) infrared **intruder** system

The homeowner called the police when they spotted an **intruder** in their backyard.

grueling

adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

synonym: exhausting, draining, demanding

(1) **grueling** process, (2) a **grueling** campaign

The marathon was a **grueling** test of endurance.

ordeal

n. a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience

synonym: trial, hardship, torment

(1) **ordeal** by fire, (2) emotional **ordeal**

The car accident was a traumatic **ordeal** for everyone involved.

fender

n. a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact

synonym: cover, bumper, cushion

(1) front **fender**, (2) vehicle **fender**

He had a **fender** bender last night.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym: group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym: opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

trance

n. a state of altered consciousness in which a person may seem to be asleep or unconscious but, in reality, is highly responsive to suggestion; a state of being deeply absorbed in thought or feeling, often characterized by a heightened awareness of one's surroundings and emotions

synonym: stupor, hypnosis, daydreaming

(1) **trance** state, (2) meditative **trance**

The rhythmic beat of the drums kept the audience in a **trance**.

slay

v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon

synonym: kill, murder, eliminate

(1) **slay** a dragon, (2) **slay** civilians

The singer **slayed** the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.

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.

squirrel

n. a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world

synonym: rodent, chipmunk, tree-dweller

(1) agile **squirrel**, (2) gray **squirrel**

The **squirrels** in the park were very friendly and came right up to us looking for food.

impatience

n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

synonym: impatience, restlessness, agitation

(1) **impatience** with delays, (2) business **impatience**

The doctor advised him to manage his **impatience** as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

goad

v. to provoke or stir up, often to get a reaction or response; to prod or urge someone to take action

synonym: prod, urge, compel

(1) **goad** him to anger, (2) **goad** a bull

The provocateur **goaded** the protesters into more extreme actions.

summon

v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

synonym: call for, muster, assemble

(1) **summon** a lawyer, (2) **summon** a city council
The chairperson was responsible for **summoning** committees.

spear

n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

synonym: javelin, pike, lance

(1) hunting **spear**, (2) sharp-pointed **spear**

Ancient people made **spears** with wood entirely.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym: poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

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.

swoop

v. to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon

synonym: dart, pounce

(1) **swoop** down the water slide, (2) **swoop** up the escalator

The eagle **swooped** down from the sky to catch its prey.

unscathed

adj. not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation

synonym: unhurt, intact, unharmed

(1) **unscathed** survivor, (2) come away **unscathed**

Thankfully, the driver emerged from the accident **unscathed**.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

synonym: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

ravage

v. to cause damage to something badly

synonym: devastate, ruin, destroy

(1) **ravage** a country, (2) **ravage** the brain

A large fire **ravaged** the forest.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ch____t race *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
2. ret_____on against discrimination *n.* the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act
3. ee___y accurate *adv.* in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements
4. ch____t builder *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
5. meditative tr___e *n.* a state of altered consciousness in which a person may seem to be asleep or unconscious but, in reality, is highly responsive to suggestion; a state of being deeply absorbed in thought or feeling, often characterized by a heightened awareness of one's surroundings and emotions
6. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. chariot, 2. retaliation, 3. eerily, 4. chariot, 5. trance, 6. stab, 7. seize

8. stomach cr__p *n.* a sudden, painful contraction or spasm of a muscle, typically in the leg or abdomen; a feeling of tightness or discomfort in a muscle caused by prolonged use or stress
9. a gr____ng campaign *adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
10. g__d him to anger *v.* to provoke or stir up, often to get a reaction or response; to prod or urge someone to take action
11. ad____ry team *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
12. g__d a bull *v.* to provoke or stir up, often to get a reaction or response; to prod or urge someone to take action
13. sharp-pointed sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
14. un____ed survivor *adj.* not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
15. sw__p up the escalator *v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
16. h__l a cup out of the window *v.* to throw something with great force
17. ret____on tactics *n.* the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act

ANSWERS: 8. cramp, 9. grueling, 10. goad, 11. adversary, 12. goad, 13. spear, 14. unscathed, 15. swoop, 16. hurl, 17. retaliation

18. r__e of passage into adulthood *n.* a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice
19. emotional or___l *n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
20. come away un_____ed *adj.* not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
21. de_____te an area *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
22. s__y civilians *v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
23. s__y a dragon *v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
24. s__b in the chest *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
25. su___n a city council *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
26. sw__p down the water slide *v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
27. political ad_____ry *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
28. moralize a fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

ANSWERS: 18. rite, 19. ordeal, 20. unscathed, 21. devastate, 22. slay, 23. slay, 24. stab, 25. summon, 26. swoop, 27. adversary, 28. fable

29. or___l by fire *n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
30. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
31. ra___e a country *v.* to cause damage to something badly
32. assisted chi_____th *n.* the act or process of giving birth to a baby
33. su___n a lawyer *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
34. 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
35. imp_____ce with delays *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
36. front fe___r *n.* a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact
37. gray sq_____el *n.* a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world
38. perform the r__e *n.* a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice

ANSWERS: 29. ordeal, 30. troop, 31. ravage, 32. childbirth, 33. summon, 34. seize, 35. impatience, 36. fender, 37. squirrel, 38. rite

39. ee___y atmospheric *adv.* in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements
40. hunting sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
41. agile sq_____el *n.* a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world
42. the members of a military tr__p *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
43. hand cr__p *n.* a sudden, painful contraction or spasm of a muscle, typically in the leg or abdomen; a feeling of tightness or discomfort in a muscle caused by prolonged use or stress
44. de_____te the economy *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
45. h__l a brickbat *v.* to throw something with great force
46. illegal in_____er *n.* someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something
47. infrared in_____er system *n.* someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something
48. classic fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

ANSWERS: 39. eerily, 40. spear, 41. squirrel, 42. troop, 43. cramp, 44. devastate, 45. hurl, 46. intruder, 47. intruder, 48. fable

49. gr____ng process *adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
50. tr___e state *n.* a state of altered consciousness in which a person may seem to be asleep or unconscious but, in reality, is highly responsive to suggestion; a state of being deeply absorbed in thought or feeling, often characterized by a heightened awareness of one's surroundings and emotions
51. business imp____ce *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
52. natural chi____th *n.* the act or process of giving birth to a baby
53. ra___e the brain *v.* to cause damage to something badly
54. vehicle fe___r *n.* a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact

ANSWERS: 49. grueling, 50. trance, 51. impatience, 52. childbirth, 53. ravage, 54. fender

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

2. The _____ in the park were very friendly and came right up to us looking for food.
n. a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world

3. He had a _____ bender last night.
n. a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact

4. The doctor advised him to manage his _____ as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.
n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

5. The marathon was a _____ test of endurance.
adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

6. The chairperson was responsible for _____ committees.
v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

7. Ancient people made _____ with wood entirely.
n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

ANSWERS: 1. troop, 2. squirrels, 3. fender, 4. impatience, 5. grueling, 6. summoning, 7. spears

8. In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known _____.
- n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
9. The abandoned house was _____ silent as if someone was watching from within.
- adv.* in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements
10. She angrily _____ the book across the room.
- v.* to throw something with great force
11. The rhythmic beat of the drums kept the audience in a _____.
- n.* a state of altered consciousness in which a person may seem to be asleep or unconscious but, in reality, is highly responsive to suggestion; a state of being deeply absorbed in thought or feeling, often characterized by a heightened awareness of one's surroundings and emotions
12. I had to stop running because of a severe _____ in my leg.
- n.* a sudden, painful contraction or spasm of a muscle, typically in the leg or abdomen; a feeling of tightness or discomfort in a muscle caused by prolonged use or stress
13. The provocateur _____ the protesters into more extreme actions.
- v.* to provoke or stir up, often to get a reaction or response; to prod or urge someone to take action
14. The eagle _____ down from the sky to catch its prey.
- v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon

ANSWERS: 8. fable, 9. eerily, 10. hurled, 11. trance, 12. cramp, 13. goaded, 14. swooped

15. The homeowner called the police when they spotted an _____ in their backyard.
- n.* someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something
16. 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
17. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.
- n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
18. The car accident was a traumatic _____ for everyone involved.
- n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
19. Thankfully, the driver emerged from the accident _____.
- adj.* not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
20. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
- v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
21. The company faced heavy _____ from its competitors after releasing a controversial product.
- n.* the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act

ANSWERS: 15. intruder, 16. chariot, 17. adversary, 18. ordeal, 19. unscathed, 20. devastate, 21. retaliation

22. 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

23. The bishop performed the _____ of consecration for the new church.

- n. a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice

24. The singer _____ the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.

- v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon

25. He was present at the _____ of his children.

- n. the act or process of giving birth to a baby

26. A large fire _____ the forest.

- v. to cause damage to something badly

27. He was _____ many times with scissors.

- v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

ANSWERS: 22. seize, 23. rite, 24. slayed, 25. childbirth, 26. ravaged, 27. stabbed