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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Iseult Gillespie: Why should you read "Hamlet"? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

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.

deception

n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

synonym: fraud, deceit, trickery

(1) **deception** tactics, (2) **deception** in advertising
The politician was accused of **deception** for making false promises during his campaign.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing
The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

hamlet

n. a small village or settlement, often without a church
synonym : village, settlement, community

(1) **hamlet** village, (2) historic **hamlet**

The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small **hamlet**.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
synonym : illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

titular

adj. holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only

synonym : named, nominal, formal

(1) **titular** character, (2) **titular** ruler

Despite being the company's **titular** leader, she had little authority in decision-making.

haunted

adj. inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions

synonym : spooky, eerie, ghostly

(1) **haunted** house, (2) **haunted** by memories

The old mansion was known to be **haunted**, with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.

immobilize

v. to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop

synonym : incapacitate, paralyze, disable

(1) **immobilize** the city, (2) **immobilize** our opponent

The paramedics had to **immobilize** the accident victim to prevent further injury during transport to the hospital.

lurk

v. to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal

synonym : hide, creep, stalk

(1) **lurked** behind the words, (2) **lurk** in the darkness
In the city, the risk of traffic accidents **lurks** at every corner.

brood

v. to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

synonym : offspring, hatch, family

(1) **brood** about the defeat, (2) a **brood** of chickens
The terrible result **brooded** over her all day long.

phantom

n. a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception

synonym : ghost, spirit, apparition

(1) a **phantom** company, (2) **phantom** limb pain
The police frantically searched for clues to the **phantom** killer.

usurp

v. to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

synonym : seize, preempt, annex

(1) **usurp** power, (2) attempt to **usurp** the throne
The competitor tried to **usurp** the reigning champion's title.

mourning

n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

synonym : grieving, sorrow, lamentation

(1) **mourning** period, (2) **mourning** ritual
She wore black clothing as a symbol of **mourning** for her grandmother.

conspirator

n. a person who is involved in a conspiracy (= a secret agreement between two or more people to perform something), especially to commit a crime or an illegal act

synonym : accomplice, confederate, partner in crime

(1) unmask a **conspirator**, (2) co- **conspirator**

The police arrested several **conspirators** involved in the plot to overthrow the government.

abrupt

adj. sudden and unexpected

synonym : sudden, unexpected, quick

(1) **abrupt** departure, (2) speak in an **abrupt** manner

The sudden, **abrupt** change in weather caught everyone by surprise.

plumb

v. to examine something closely or carefully; to measure the depth of water, a pipe, or a hole, by means of a plumb line or similar device; to explore or understand something completely or fully

synonym : fathom, dip, sound

(1) **plumb** the depths, (2) **plumb** a pipe

The contractor had to **plumb** the new building before erecting the walls.

protagonist

n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

synonym : hero, central figure, leading character

(1) **protagonist** of drama, (2) play a **protagonist**

The **protagonist's** triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.

tangle

n. a confused mass of something twisted together

synonym : knot, snarl, entanglement

(1) in a **tangle**, (2) **tangle** wires

The cords behind my computer were a **tangled** mess.

ulterior

adj. existing beyond what is obvious or apparent; intentionally concealed or kept hidden; lying beneath the surface

synonym : hidden, undisclosed, secret

(1) **ulterior** meaning, (2) **ulterior** plan

The politician had **ulterior** motives for supporting the bill,

which was later uncovered by the media.

dither

v. to be indecisive or unsure about something; to tremble or shake with nervousness or excitement

synonym: hesitate, waver, vacillate

(1) **dither** over a decision, (2) **dither** in negotiations

I couldn't decide what to wear to the party, so I **dithered** over my outfit for hours.

exasperate

v. to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury

synonym: irritate, annoy, provoke

(1) **exasperate** him to anger, (2) **exasperate** a situation

Her constant complaining about the weather started to **exasperate** everyone around her.

machination

n. a crafty or cunning scheme or plot, often designed to cause harm or mischief

synonym: plotting, scheming, conniving

(1) political **machination**, (2) intricate **machination**

An investigative journalist exposed the **machinations** of the corrupt politician.

introspective

adj. characterized by a tendency to reflect on one's thoughts, feelings, and actions, often with a deep or philosophical level of analysis and introspection

synonym: thoughtful, reflective, contemplative

(1) **introspective** thoughts, (2) **introspective** personality

His poetry was deeply **introspective**, exploring themes of identity, loss, and the human condition.

blazing

adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

synonym: burning, fiery, scorching

(1) **blazing** fury, (2) **blazing** fire

The **blazing** sun beat down on the desert.

contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

synonym: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

cackle

v. to laugh in a harsh, loud, and often unpleasant way, especially as a sign of amusement or derision; (noun) a loud, shrill, and often unpleasant laughter that is usually associated with witches, hyenas, or other such stereotypical characters

synonym: chuckle, giggle, snicker

(1) **cackle** loudly, (2) witch **cackle**

The older woman **cackled** with delight as she told us her stories of days gone by.

melancholy

n. a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation

synonym: sadness, sorrow, gloom

(1) feel **melancholy**, (2) nostalgic **melancholy**

His **melancholy** mood was apparent to everyone who knew him.

monologue

n. a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory

synonym: soliloquy, speech, address

(1) inner **monologue**, (2) deliver a **monologue**

The actor's **monologue** was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.

exemplify

v. to serve as a typical example of something

synonym: illustrate, show, demonstrate

(1) **exemplify** the importance, (2) **exemplify** the solution

The example of a successful startup serves to **exemplify** the potential of the industry.

angst

n. a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general

synonym : anxiety, worry, stress

(1) an endless stream of **angst**, (2) with no **angst**

He felt a sense of **angst** about the future and wasn't sure what would happen.

sling

v. to throw or drop something somewhere carelessly; to hang loosely or freely; (noun) a length of rope, fabric, or chain used to support or lift something

synonym : throw, hang, (noun) harness

(1) **sling** an arrow, (2) **sling** shot

The children were playing by **slinging** stones at the monument.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym : edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

insanity

n. the state of being seriously mentally ill; madness

synonym : madness, psychosis, lunacy

(1) sheer **insanity**, (2) alcoholic **insanity**

His behavior became increasingly erratic, leading many to believe he was experiencing a bout of **insanity**.

inward

adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

synonym : internal, introspective, interior

(1) **inward** peace, (2) **inward** cargo

The **inward** motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym : judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

erratic

adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

synonym : unpredictable, irregular, unstable

(1) **erratic** behavior, (2) **erratic** movements

The stock market has been behaving in an **erratic** manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.

ripple

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym : wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

overlook

v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

synonym : disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

alarming

adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

synonym : forbidding, concerning, disturbing

(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics

The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.

lovesick

adj. feeling sad, lonely, or depressed because one is not in a romantic relationship or because one's significant other is not with them

synonym: heartbroken, infatuated

(1) **lovesick** poet, (2) a **lovesick** maiden

She was **lovesick** and couldn't stop thinking about him.

bloodshed

n. the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict

synonym: carnage, violence, killing

(1) bloody **bloodshed**, (2) massive **bloodshed**

The negotiations failed, leading to threats of **bloodshed** between the two countries.

grapple

v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

synonym: brawl, scuffle, wrestle

(1) **grapple** with problem, (2) **grapple** with each other

He needed to **grapple** with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.

avenge

v. to get revenge or seek retribution for a perceived wrong or injury, often in the form of punishment, retaliation, or vindication

synonym: retaliate, revenge, requite

(1) **avenge** a friend, (2) **avenge** an injustice

He sought to **avenge** his brother's death by seeking justice through the legal system.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| 1. con_____ted leaving school | v. | to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully |
| 2. ov_____ok a street | v. | to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above |
| 3. de_____on tactics | n. | the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action |
| 4. l__k in the darkness | v. | to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal |
| 5. ha_____d by memories | adj. | inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions |
| 6. sl__g shot | v. | to throw or drop something somewhere carelessly; to hang loosely or freely; (noun) a length of rope, fabric, or chain used to support or lift something |
| 7. co_____e the listener | v. | to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |
| 8. al_____ng news | adj. | causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing |
| 9. gr_____e with each other | v. | to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons |

ANSWERS: 1. contemplate, 2. overlook, 3. deception, 4. lurk, 5. haunted, 6. sling, 7. confuse, 8. alarming, 9. grapple

10. mo____ng ritual *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
11. av____e a friend *v.* to get revenge or seek retribution for a perceived wrong or injury, often in the form of punishment, retaliation, or vindication
12. pl__b a pipe *v.* to examine something closely or carefully; to measure the depth of water, a pipe, or a hole, by means of a plumb line or similar device; to explore or understand something completely or fully
13. pl__b the depths *v.* to examine something closely or carefully; to measure the depth of water, a pipe, or a hole, by means of a plumb line or similar device; to explore or understand something completely or fully
14. ha____t village *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
15. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
16. with no an__t *n.* a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
17. a br__d of chickens *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

ANSWERS: 10. mourning, 11. avenge, 12. plumb, 13. plumb, 14. hamlet, 15. doom, 16. angst, 17. brood

18. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
19. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
20. a lo_____ck maiden *adj.* feeling sad, lonely, or depressed because one is not in a romantic relationship or because one's significant other is not with them
21. ph_____m limb pain *n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception
22. imm_____ze the city *v.* to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop
23. deliver a mo_____ue *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
24. imm_____ze our opponent *v.* to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop
25. ex_____fy the importance *v.* to serve as a typical example of something
26. co-con_____or *n.* a person who is involved in a conspiracy (= a secret agreement between two or more people to perform something), especially to commit a crime or an illegal act

ANSWERS: 18. protagonist, 19. brink, 20. lovesick, 21. phantom, 22. immobilize, 23. monologue, 24. immobilize, 25. exemplify, 26. conspirator

27. sheer in_____ty *n.* the state of being seriously mentally ill; madness
28. ti_____r ruler *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
29. bl_____g fire *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
30. di____r in negotiations *v.* to be indecisive or unsure about something; to tremble or shake with nervousness or excitement
31. gr_____e with problem *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
32. exa_____te him to anger *v.* to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury
33. a ri____e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
34. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
35. mo_____ng period *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
36. attempt to us__p the throne *v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

ANSWERS: 27. insanity, 28. titular, 29. blazing, 30. dither, 31. grapple, 32. exasperate, 33. ripple, 34. brink, 35. mourning, 36. usurp

37. political mac_____on *n.* a crafty or cunning scheme or plot, often designed to cause harm or mischief
38. historic ha____t *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
39. exa_____te a situation *v.* to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury
40. int_____ive personality *adj.* characterized by a tendency to reflect on one's thoughts, feelings, and actions, often with a deep or philosophical level of analysis and introspection
41. ti_____r character *adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
42. feel mel_____ly *n.* a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation
43. int_____ive thoughts *adj.* characterized by a tendency to reflect on one's thoughts, feelings, and actions, often with a deep or philosophical level of analysis and introspection
44. the wh_____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
45. answer in a wh_____r *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

ANSWERS: 37. machination, 38. hamlet, 39. exasperate, 40. introspective, 41. titular, 42. melancholy, 43. introspective, 44. whisper, 45. whisper

46. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
47. ri___e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
48. ex_____fy the solution *v.* to serve as a typical example of something
49. witch ca___e *v.* to laugh in a harsh, loud, and often unpleasant way, especially as a sign of amusement or derision; (noun) a loud, shrill, and often unpleasant laughter that is usually associated with witches, hyenas, or other such stereotypical characters
50. al_____ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
51. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
52. de___t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
53. de___t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
54. intricate mac_____on *n.* a crafty or cunning scheme or plot, often designed to cause harm or mischief
55. in a ta___e *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
56. er_____c movements *adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

ANSWERS: 46. doom, 47. ripple, 48. exemplify, 49. cackle, 50. alarming, 51. confuse, 52. depict, 53. depict, 54. machination, 55. tangle, 56. erratic

57. con_____te a marriage *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
58. an endless stream of an__t *n.* a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
59. ca___e loudly *v.* to laugh in a harsh, loud, and often unpleasant way, especially as a sign of amusement or derision; (noun) a loud, shrill, and often unpleasant laughter that is usually associated with witches, hyenas, or other such stereotypical characters
60. inner mo_____ue *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
61. de_____on in advertising *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
62. bl_____g fury *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
63. br__d about the defeat *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

ANSWERS: 57. contemplate, 58. angst, 59. cackle, 60. monologue, 61. deception, 62. blazing, 63. brood

64. bloody bl_____ed *n.* the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict
65. unmask a con_____or *n.* a person who is involved in a conspiracy (= a secret agreement between two or more people to perform something), especially to commit a crime or an illegal act
66. massive bl_____ed *n.* the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict
67. di____r over a decision *v.* to be indecisive or unsure about something; to tremble or shake with nervousness or excitement
68. a ph_____m company *n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception
69. ov_____ok that fact *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
70. er_____c behavior *adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
71. avoid am_____ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
72. us__p power *v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

ANSWERS: 64. bloodshed, 65. conspirator, 66. bloodshed, 67. dither, 68. phantom, 69. overlook, 70. erratic, 71. ambiguity, 72. usurp

73. play a pro_____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
74. in___d cargo *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
75. ha____d house *adj.* inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
76. I__ked behind the words *v.* to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal
77. nostalgic mel_____ly *n.* a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation
78. sl__g an arrow *v.* to throw or drop something somewhere carelessly; to hang loosely or freely; (noun) a length of rope, fabric, or chain used to support or lift something
79. ab___t departure *adj.* sudden and unexpected
80. ta___e wires *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
81. av___e an injustice *v.* to get revenge or seek retribution for a perceived wrong or injury, often in the form of punishment, retaliation, or vindication
82. free from am_____ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
83. in___d peace *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

ANSWERS: 73. protagonist, 74. inward, 75. haunted, 76. lurk, 77. melancholy, 78. sling, 79. abrupt, 80. tangle, 81. avenge, 82. ambiguity, 83. inward

84. ul____or meaning *adj.* existing beyond what is obvious or apparent; intentionally concealed or kept hidden; lying beneath the surface
85. ul____or plan *adj.* existing beyond what is obvious or apparent; intentionally concealed or kept hidden; lying beneath the surface
86. lo____ck poet *adj.* feeling sad, lonely, or depressed because one is not in a romantic relationship or because one's significant other is not with them
87. alcoholic in____ty *n.* the state of being seriously mentally ill; madness
88. speak in an ab____t manner *adj.* sudden and unexpected

ANSWERS: 84. ulterior, 85. ulterior, 86. lovesick, 87. insanity, 88. abrupt

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The actor's _____ was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.
n. a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
2. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite _____.
adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
3. His _____ mood was apparent to everyone who knew him.
n. a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation
4. The example of a successful startup serves to _____ the potential of the industry.
v. to serve as a typical example of something
5. We cannot _____ an opportunity for great success.
v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
6. He sought to _____ his brother's death by seeking justice through the legal system.
v. to get revenge or seek retribution for a perceived wrong or injury, often in the form of punishment, retaliation, or vindication
7. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

ANSWERS: 1. monologue, 2. alarming, 3. melancholy, 4. exemplify, 5. overlook, 6. avenge, 7. brink

8. The _____ motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.
adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
9. An investigative journalist exposed the _____ of the corrupt politician.
n. a crafty or cunning scheme or plot, often designed to cause harm or mischief
10. The sudden, _____ change in weather caught everyone by surprise.
adj. sudden and unexpected
11. He felt a sense of _____ about the future and wasn't sure what would happen.
n. a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
12. He needed to _____ with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.
v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
13. The old mansion was known to be _____ with strange noises and eerie sightings reported by visitors.
adj. inhabited, visited, or frequented by ghosts or spirits; disturbed or troubled by persistent or disturbing memories or emotions
14. The negotiations failed, leading to threats of _____ between the two countries.
n. the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict
15. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

ANSWERS: 8. inward, 9. machinations, 10. abrupt, 11. angst, 12. grapple, 13. haunted, 14. bloodshed, 15. doom

16. The police arrested several _____ involved in the plot to overthrow the government.
- n.* a person who is involved in a conspiracy (= a secret agreement between two or more people to perform something), especially to commit a crime or an illegal act
17. I couldn't decide what to wear to the party, so I _____ over my outfit for hours.
- v.* to be indecisive or unsure about something; to tremble or shake with nervousness or excitement
18. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
- v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
19. The politician had _____ motives for supporting the bill, which was later uncovered by the media.
- adj.* existing beyond what is obvious or apparent; intentionally concealed or kept hidden; lying beneath the surface
20. The competitor tried to _____ the reigning champion's title.
- v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
21. She was _____ and couldn't stop thinking about him.
- adj.* feeling sad, lonely, or depressed because one is not in a romantic relationship or because one's significant other is not with them
22. The police frantically searched for clues to the _____ killer.
- n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception

ANSWERS: 16. conspirators, 17. dithered, 18. depicted, 19. ulterior, 20. usurp, 21. lovesick, 22. phantom

23. The contractor had to _____ the new building before erecting the walls.
- v. to examine something closely or carefully; to measure the depth of water, a pipe, or a hole, by means of a plumb line or similar device; to explore or understand something completely or fully
24. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
25. In the city, the risk of traffic accidents _____ at every corner.
- v. to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal
26. The _____ sun beat down on the desert.
- adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
27. His behavior became increasingly erratic, leading many to believe he was experiencing a bout of _____.
- n. the state of being seriously mentally ill; madness
28. The older woman _____ with delight as she told us her stories of days gone by.
- v. to laugh in a harsh, loud, and often unpleasant way, especially as a sign of amusement or derision; (noun) a loud, shrill, and often unpleasant laughter that is usually associated with witches, hyenas, or other such stereotypical characters
29. His poetry was deeply _____ exploring themes of identity, loss, and the human condition.
- adj. characterized by a tendency to reflect on one's thoughts, feelings, and actions, often with a deep or philosophical level of analysis and introspection

ANSWERS: 23. plumb, 24. confused, 25. lurks, 26. blazing, 27. insanity, 28. cackled, 29. introspective,

30. The terrible result _____ over her all day long.
- v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth
31. The paramedics had to _____ the accident victim to prevent further injury during transport to the hospital.
- v.* to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop
32. The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small _____.
- n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
33. The politician was accused of _____ for making false promises during his campaign.
- n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
34. She wore black clothing as a symbol of _____ for her grandmother.
- n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
35. 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
36. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
- n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

ANSWERS: 30. brooded, 31. immobilize, 32. hamlet, 33. deception, 34. mourning, 35. whispered, 36. ambiguity

37. Her constant complaining about the weather started to _____ everyone around her.
- v.* to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury
38. I recently _____ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.
- v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
39. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.
- n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
40. The stock market has been behaving in an _____ manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.
- adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
41. Despite being the company's _____ leader, she had little authority in decision-making.
- adj.* holding or bearing a particular title or designation, often without having the full authority or functional responsibilities that normally accompany the position; pertaining to or existing in name only
42. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
- n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
43. The cords behind my computer were a _____ mess.
- n.* a confused mass of something twisted together

ANSWERS: 37. exasperate, 38. contemplated, 39. ripple, 40. erratic, 41. titular, 42. protagonist's, 43. tangled

44. The children were playing by _____ stones at the monument.

- v. to throw or drop something somewhere carelessly; to hang loosely or freely;
(noun) a length of rope, fabric, or chain used to support or lift something

ANSWERS: 44. slinging