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Iseult Gillespie: The wicked wit of Jane Austen | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

bicker

v. to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms

synonym : quarrel, dispute, argue

(1) **bicker** over small things, (2) **bicker** with each other
My siblings always **bicker** over who gets the front seat in the car.

heroine

n. a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film

synonym : protagonist

(1) medieval **heroine**, (2) tragic **heroine**
The brave **heroine** rescued the prince from the dragon's lair.

wink

v. to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light

synonym : blink, flutter, twinkle

(1) **wink** at abuses, (2) **wink** away my tears
He couldn't help but **wink** at his wife during the boring meeting to make her laugh.

confidant

n. a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, often in a trusting and intimate manner; a close friend or trusted advisor

synonym : chum, friend, pal

(1) **confidant's** advice, (2) trusted **confidant**

She chose her mother as her **confidant** to share her personal issue.

sly

adj. having or showing a secretive or deceptive nature; cunning or crafty in achieving one's goals

synonym : crafty, sneaky, devious

(1) **sly** tactics, (2) **sly** fox

He had a **sly** smile on his face as he told his joke.

satire

n. a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

synonym : irony, mockery, ridicule

(1) **satire** magazine, (2) a pungent **satire**

The comedian's **satire** on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym : decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

sheltered

adj. protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life

synonym : protected, secure, guarded

(1) **sheltered** life, (2) **sheltered** housing

The birds found **sheltered** spots in the trees to avoid the rain.

resentment

n. bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
synonym : bitterness, enmity, animosity

(1) abiding **resentment**, (2) bitter **resentment**

She felt **resentment** towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.

pleasantry

n. an act of politeness or a small gift or favor given to show goodwill or friendliness; a polite or humorous remark or comment, often used to make conversation or show friendliness

synonym : joke, banter, humor

(1) **pleasantry** exchange, (2) mutual **pleasantry**

After a long day at work, he appreciated the small **pleasantry** of a warm cup of tea.

bewilder

v. to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

synonym : perplex, confound, puzzle

(1) **bewilder** the reader, (2) **bewilder** scientists

The complex instructions on the assignment sheet **bewilder** most students.

etiquette

n. a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts

synonym : protocol, manners, decorum

(1) email **etiquette**, (2) breach of **etiquette**

It's important to follow proper **etiquette** when attending a formal dinner.

sentimental

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

synonym : bathetic, drippy, maudlin

(1) in a **sentimental** mood, (2) **sentimental** damage

Stop being **sentimental** and always speak the truth.

lofty

adj. elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language

synonym : high, elevated, grand

(1) a **lofty** peak, (2) **lofty** ambitions

His **lofty** goals were admirable but unrealistic.

pragmatic

adj. practical rather than idealistic

synonym : practical, realistic, down-to-earth

(1) **pragmatic** approach, (2) **pragmatic** politics

He was a **pragmatic** leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.

barb

n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

synonym : spine, barbed remark, sting

(1) **barb** wire, (2) aim a **barb**

The politician's words were full of **barbs** designed to hurt his opponent.

arrogant

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

synonym : haughty, supercilious, disdainful

(1) an **arrogant** attitude, (2) grow **arrogant**

He was so **arrogant** that he thought he was always right.

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.

hypocrisy

n. the practice of engaging in the same behavior or activity for which one criticizes another or the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's behavior does not conform

synonym : insincerity, dissembling, duplicity

(1) without **hypocrisy**, (2) self-serving **hypocrisy**

The commentaries often criticized the government's political **hypocrisy**.

propriety

n. the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct

synonym: appropriateness, correctness, decorum

(1) a breach of **propriety**, (2) **propriety** etiquette

The company's code of **propriety** requires all employees to dress professionally.

ridicule

n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

synonym: derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

senseless

adj. lacking meaning, purpose, or reason; without sense or sensibility; foolish or irrational

synonym: meaningless, pointless, absurd

(1) **senseless** terror attack, (2) **senseless** slaughter

The **senseless** act of violence left the community in shock and mourning.

mythical

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

synonym: mythological, fictitious, legendary

(1) **mythical** heroes, (2) **mythical** world

Many cultures have their **mythical** creatures and legends.

socialite

n. a person, usually a woman, who is known for and participates in fashionable social events and is often wealthy or of high social status

synonym : social butterfly, partygoer, social climber

(1) wealthy **socialite**, (2) **socialite's** philanthropic efforts

The young **socialite** was photographed in the pages of high fashion magazines.

unsurprising

adj. not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted

synonym : predictable, expected, foreseeable

(1) **unsurprising** success, (2) **unsurprising** result

The **unsurprising** outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.

lucrative

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

synonym : profitable, moneymaking, remunerative

(1) **lucrative** deal, (2) **lucrative** market

Investing in real estate can be a **lucrative** business if done correctly.

witty

adj. cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way

synonym : clever, humorous, satirical

(1) **witty** cartoon, (2) make **witty** remarks

The comedian's **witty** jokes had the audience in stitches.

headstrong

adj. stubborn and determined to have one's way; not easily influenced by others

synonym : stubborn, obstinate, unyielding

(1) **headstrong** person, (2) **headstrong** decision

His **headstrong** behavior made it difficult for him to work with other team members.

tumult

n. a state of great confusion, commotion, or disturbance; a loud, confused noise, as of people shouting

synonym : commotion, disturbance, upheaval

(1) **tumult** of voices, (2) in the midst of the **tumult**

The political turmoil caused great **tumult** in the country.

irreverent

adj. lacking proper respect or seriousness, often in a lighthearted or humorous manner; not showing reverence or deference to established authority or tradition

synonym : disrespectful, impious, sacrilegious

(1) **irreverent** comment, (2) **irreverent** attitude

The comedian's **irreverent** jokes about religion offended some members of the audience.

clumsy

adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome

synonym : awkward, ungainly, inept

(1) **clumsy** at sports, (2) **clumsy** attempt

The **clumsy** waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.

suitor

n. a man who seeks the favor, hand in marriage; a prospective buyer who wants to take control of another company

synonym : wooer, admirer, beau

(1) potential **suitors**, (2) ward off a **suitor**

The princess had many **suitors** who sought her hand in marriage.

unmarried

adj. not married; single; having not entered into the legal or socially recognized state of marriage

synonym : single, unwed, celibate

(1) young **unmarried** couple, (2) **unmarried** status

She has chosen to remain **unmarried** and focus on her career.

sensibility

n. mental responsiveness and awareness toward something

synonym : emotion, sense, aesthesia

(1) cultural **sensibility**, (2) design **sensibility**

Everything he writes shows the breadth of his **sensibility**.

filial

adj. relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent

synonym : offspring, familial

(1) **filial** respect, (2) **filial** generation

Filial piety is an important value in many Asian cultures, where respect for one's parents is paramount.

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.

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.

prattle

n. meaningless and incessant chatter or talk; idle or foolish talk; (verb) to talk at length in a foolish or inconsequential way

synonym : chatter, babble, prate

(1) meaningless **prattle**, (2) **prattle** endlessly about the gossip

Her constant **prattle** about trivial things annoyed everyone in the room.

swelling

n. an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury

synonym : bulge, bump, inflammation

(1) **swelling** of the ankle, (2) hard **swelling** on the body

After intensive icing by the trainer, the **swelling** went down.

doubly

adv. to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance

synonym : twice, twofold, in two ways

(1) **doubly** difficult, (2) **doubly** effective

The athlete faced a challenge that was **doubly** daunting because of her injury.

blindside

v. to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage

synonym : surprise, ambush, catch off guard

(1) **blindside** the audience, (2) **blindside** opponent

My boss's criticism of my work **blindsided** me during the meeting.

diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym : decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

adaptable

adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

synonym : flexible, adjustable, elastic

(1) **adaptable** enough for the environment, (2) an **adaptable** person

We seek a candidate who possesses **adaptable** fighting potential.

Session 2: Spelling

1. fi___l respect *adj.* relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent
2. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
3. hea_____ng decision *adj.* stubborn and determined to have one's way; not easily influenced by others
4. a pungent sa___e *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
5. lo__y ambitions *adj.* elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
6. ward off a su___r *n.* a man who seeks the favor, hand in marriage; a prospective buyer who wants to take control of another company
7. sh_____ed life *adj.* protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life
8. pr_____e endlessly about the gossip *n.* meaningless and incessant chatter or talk; idle or foolish talk; (verb) to talk at length in a foolish or inconsequential way

ANSWERS: 1. filial, 2. decode, 3. headstrong, 4. satire, 5. lofty, 6. suitor, 7. sheltered, 8. prattle

9. irr_____nt attitude *adj.* lacking proper respect or seriousness, often in a lighthearted or humorous manner; not showing reverence or deference to established authority or tradition
10. tragic he_____e *n.* a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film
11. gr_____e with problem *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
12. an ad_____le person *adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
13. 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
14. bitter res_____nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
15. email et_____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
16. sh_____ed housing *adj.* protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life
17. bi____r with each other *v.* to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms

ANSWERS: 9. irreverent, 10. heroine, 11. grapple, 12. adaptable, 13. titular, 14. resentment, 15. etiquette, 16. sheltered, 17. bicker

18. irr_____nt comment *adj.* lacking proper respect or seriousness, often in a lighthearted or humorous manner; not showing reverence or deference to established authority or tradition
19. breach of et_____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
20. hard sw_____ng on the body *n.* an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury
21. s_y fox *adj.* having or showing a secretive or deceptive nature; cunning or crafty in achieving one's goals
22. young un_____ed couple *adj.* not married; single; having not entered into the legal or socially recognized state of marriage
23. be_____er scientists *v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
24. di_____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
25. do___y difficult *adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance
26. be_____er the reader *v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

ANSWERS: 18. irreverent, 19. etiquette, 20. swelling, 21. sly, 22. unmarried, 23. bewilder, 24. diminish, 25. doubly, 26. bewilder

27. pr_____ic approach *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
28. my_____al heroes *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
29. ple_____ry exchange *n.* an act of politeness or a small gift or favor given to show goodwill or friendliness; a polite or humorous remark or comment, often used to make conversation or show friendliness
30. my_____al world *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
31. 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
32. se_____ss terror attack *adj.* lacking meaning, purpose, or reason; without sense or sensibility; foolish or irrational
33. lu_____ve deal *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
34. bi____r over small things *v.* to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms
35. a breach of pr_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct

ANSWERS: 27. pragmatic, 28. mythical, 29. pleasantry, 30. mythical, 31. titular, 32. senseless, 33. lucrative, 34. bicker, 35. propriety

36. public ri____le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
37. bl____de opponent *v.* to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage
38. an ar____nt attitude *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
39. in the midst of the tu____t *n.* a state of great confusion, commotion, or disturbance; a loud, confused noise, as of people shouting
40. cl____y attempt *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
41. w__k at abuses *v.* to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light
42. pr____ic politics *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
43. fi____l generation *adj.* relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent
44. aim a b__b *n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

ANSWERS: 36. ridicule, 37. blindside, 38. arrogant, 39. tumult, 40. clumsy, 41. wink, 42. pragmatic, 43. filial, 44. barb

45. cultural sen_____ty *n.* mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
46. design sen_____ty *n.* mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
47. play a pro_____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
48. potential su____rs *n.* a man who seeks the favor, hand in marriage; a prospective buyer who wants to take control of another company
49. hea_____ng person *adj.* stubborn and determined to have one's way; not easily influenced by others
50. w__k away my tears *v.* to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light
51. s_y tactics *adj.* having or showing a secretive or deceptive nature; cunning or crafty in achieving one's goals
52. so_____te's philanthropic efforts *n.* a person, usually a woman, who is known for and participates in fashionable social events and is often wealthy or of high social status
53. grow ar_____nt *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
54. wi__y cartoon *adj.* cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
55. sen_____al damage *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

ANSWERS: 45. sensibility, 46. sensibility, 47. protagonist, 48. suitor, 49. headstrong, 50. wink, 51. sly, 52. socialite, 53. arrogant, 54. witty, 55. sentimental

56. co_____nt's advice *n.* a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, often in a trusting and intimate manner; a close friend or trusted advisor
57. bl_____de the audience *v.* to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage
58. self-serving hy_____sy *n.* the practice of engaging in the same behavior or activity for which one criticizes another or the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's behavior does not conform
59. ad_____le enough for the environment *adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
60. meaningless pr_____e *n.* meaningless and incessant chatter or talk; idle or foolish talk; (verb) to talk at length in a foolish or inconsequential way
61. do____y effective *adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance
62. pr_____ty etiquette *n.* the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct
63. lu_____ve market *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

ANSWERS: 56. confidant, 57. blindside, 58. hypocrisy, 59. adaptable, 60. prattle, 61. doubly, 62. propriety, 63. lucrative

64. a lo__y peak *adj.* elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
65. di____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
66. sw____ng of the ankle *n.* an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury
67. without hy____sy *n.* the practice of engaging in the same behavior or activity for which one criticizes another or the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's behavior does not conform
68. wealthy so____te *n.* a person, usually a woman, who is known for and participates in fashionable social events and is often wealthy or of high social status
69. ri____le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
70. trusted co____nt *n.* a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, often in a trusting and intimate manner; a close friend or trusted advisor
71. mutual ple____ry *n.* an act of politeness or a small gift or favor given to show goodwill or friendliness; a polite or humorous remark or comment, often used to make conversation or show friendliness

ANSWERS: 64. lofty, 65. diminish, 66. swelling, 67. hypocrisy, 68. socialite, 69. ridicule, 70. confidant, 71. pleasantry

72. se_____ss slaughter *adj.* lacking meaning, purpose, or reason; without sense or sensibility; foolish or irrational
73. 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
74. cl____y at sports *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
75. sa____e magazine *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
76. b__b wire *n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair
77. uns_____ing result *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
78. make wi__y remarks *adj.* cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
79. uns_____ing success *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
80. in a sen_____al mood *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

ANSWERS: 72. senseless, 73. grapple, 74. clumsy, 75. satire, 76. barb, 77. unsurprising, 78. witty, 79. unsurprising, 80. sentimental

81. ability to de___e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
82. abiding res_____nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
83. medieval he_____e *n.* a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film
84. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
85. un_____ed status *adj.* not married; single; having not entered into the legal or socially recognized state of marriage
86. tu___t of voices *n.* a state of great confusion, commotion, or disturbance; a loud, confused noise, as of people shouting

ANSWERS: 81. decode, 82. resentment, 83. heroine, 84. protagonist, 85. unmarried, 86. tumult

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Everything he writes shows the breadth of his _____.
n. mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
2. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
3. The _____ outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.
adj. not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
4. His _____ goals were admirable but unrealistic.
adj. elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
5. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.
v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
6. After intensive icing by the trainer, the _____ went down.
n. an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury
7. The politician's words were full of _____ designed to hurt his opponent.
n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

ANSWERS: 1. sensibility, 2. protagonist's, 3. unsurprising, 4. lofty, 5. decode, 6. swelling, 7. barbs

8. The princess had many _____ who sought her hand in marriage.
n. a man who seeks the favor, hand in marriage; a prospective buyer who wants to take control of another company
9. The complex instructions on the assignment sheet _____ most students.
v. to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
10. It's important to follow proper _____ when attending a formal dinner.
n. a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
11. The commentaries often criticized the government's political _____.
n. the practice of engaging in the same behavior or activity for which one criticizes another or the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's behavior does not conform
12. My boss's criticism of my work _____ me during the meeting.
v. to surprise or attack someone unexpectedly and from a position they are not aware of, often to gain an advantage
13. The athlete faced a challenge that was _____ daunting because of her injury.
adv. to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. suitors, 9. bewilder, 10. etiquette, 11. hypocrisy, 12. blindsided, 13. doubly, 14. titular

15. He was a _____ leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.

adj. practical rather than idealistic

16. The company's code of _____ requires all employees to dress professionally.

n. the state or quality of being correct and suitable in manners, etiquette, or conduct

17. The brave _____ rescued the prince from the dragon's lair.

n. a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a woman who is the protagonist of a literary work or film

18. He couldn't help but _____ at his wife during the boring meeting to make her laugh.

v. to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light

19. Stop being _____ and always speak the truth.

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

20. The birds found _____ spots in the trees to avoid the rain.

adj. protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life

21. The _____ waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.

adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome

22. The political turmoil caused great _____ in the country.

n. a state of great confusion, commotion, or disturbance; a loud, confused noise, as of people shouting

ANSWERS: 15. pragmatic, 16. propriety, 17. heroine, 18. wink, 19. sentimental, 20. sheltered, 21. clumsy, 22. tumult

23. The _____ act of violence left the community in shock and mourning.

adj. lacking meaning, purpose, or reason; without sense or sensibility; foolish or irrational

24. She chose her mother as her _____ to share her personal issue.

n. a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, often in a trusting and intimate manner; a close friend or trusted advisor

25. My siblings always _____ over who gets the front seat in the car.

v. to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms

26. His _____ behavior made it difficult for him to work with other team members.

adj. stubborn and determined to have one's way; not easily influenced by others

27. She felt _____ towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.

n. bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

28. Her constant _____ about trivial things annoyed everyone in the room.

n. meaningless and incessant chatter or talk; idle or foolish talk; (verb) to talk at length in a foolish or inconsequential way

29. Many cultures have their _____ creatures and legends.

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

30. After a long day at work, he appreciated the small _____ of a warm cup of tea.

n. an act of politeness or a small gift or favor given to show goodwill or friendliness; a polite or humorous remark or comment, often used to make conversation or show friendliness

ANSWERS: 23. senseless, 24. confidant, 25. bicker, 26. headstrong, 27. resentment, 28. prattle, 29. mythical, 30. pleasantry

31. As people get old, their energies may _____.
- v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
32. The young _____ was photographed in the pages of high fashion magazines.
- n.* a person, usually a woman, who is known for and participates in fashionable social events and is often wealthy or of high social status
33. _____ piety is an important value in many Asian cultures, where respect for one's parents is paramount.
- adj.* relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent
34. The comedian's _____ on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.
- n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
35. The comedian's _____ jokes about religion offended some members of the audience.
- adj.* lacking proper respect or seriousness, often in a lighthearted or humorous manner; not showing reverence or deference to established authority or tradition
36. The comedian's _____ jokes had the audience in stitches.
- adj.* cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
37. She has chosen to remain _____ and focus on her career.
- adj.* not married; single; having not entered into the legal or socially recognized state of marriage

ANSWERS: 31. diminish, 32. socialite, 33. Filial, 34. satire, 35. irreverent, 36. witty, 37. unmarried

38. Investing in real estate can be a _____ business if done correctly.

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

39. The _____ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

40. He had a ___ smile on his face as he told his joke.

adj. having or showing a secretive or deceptive nature; cunning or crafty in achieving one's goals

41. He was so _____ that he thought he was always right.

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

42. We seek a candidate who possesses _____ fighting potential.

adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

43. 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

ANSWERS: 38. lucrative, 39. ridicule, 40. sly, 41. arrogant, 42. adaptable, 43. grapple