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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Iseult Gillespie: Why should you read "Fahrenheit 451"? | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_why_should_you_read_fahrenheit_451

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy
synonym: delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

blaze

v. to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
synonym: burn, flame, ignite

(1) **blaze** a trail, (2) **blaze** with fury

The forest fire continued to **blaze** out of control, threatening nearby homes.

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.

firefighter

n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires

(1) forest **firefighter**, (2) decided to be a **firefighter**

The **firefighter** broke into the house bravely to rescue the

children.

parlor

n. a room in a house used for socializing or entertaining guests, often furnished with comfortable seating and decorative accents

synonym: living room, salon, lounge

(1) **parlor** game, (2) beauty **parlor**

The family gathered in the **parlor** to celebrate their grandmother's 90th birthday.

plastered

adj. made smooth by applying a sticky or glossy substance; very drunk

synonym: coated, smeared, drunk

(1) **plastered** walls, (2) get absolutely **plastered**

The wall was **plastered** with posters and graffiti.

kerosene

n. a flammable, colorless, or pale yellow liquid derived from the distillation of petroleum, used as a fuel for lamps, stoves, and heaters

synonym: fuel oil, lamp oil, coal oil

(1) **kerosene** stove, (2) burning **kerosene**

The lamp in the cabin burned **kerosene** for light.

hound

v. to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way;
(*noun*) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity

synonym: chase, badger, annoy

(1) beagle **hound**, (2) **hound** him for payment

The paparazzi constantly **hound** celebrities for a photo or a story.

salamander

n. any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

synonym: amphibian

(1) terrestrial **salamander**, (2) semiaquatic **salamander**

We plan to raise a giant **salamander** as a pet.

tome

n. a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book

synonym: book, volume, opus

(1) **tome** of knowledge, (2) ancient **tome**

I spent the whole weekend reading an academic **tome** about medieval history.

ablaze

adj. on fire; burning brightly

synonym: burning, alight, on fire

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

The building was **ablaze** with fire.

contraband

n. goods that are prohibited from being imported or exported, or otherwise possessed and traded without proper authorization or legal permission

synonym: illegal goods, smuggled goods, bootleg

(1) **contraband** goods, (2) **contraband** detection dog

The police discovered **contraband** in the back of the suspect's vehicle.

uneasy

adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

synonym: anxious, troubled, nervous

(1) have **uneasy** eyes, (2) **uneasy** relationship

He was **uneasy** about the situation and didn't know what to do.

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.

prescient

adj. having or showing knowledge of events or situations before they occur; foreknowing or prophetic

synonym: prophetic, foresighted, intuitive

(1) **prescient** dream, (2) **prescient** vision

The **prescient** investor predicted the market crash and sold his stocks before it happened.

kindle

v. to start a fire; to light

synonym: ignite, light, start

(1) **kindle** strife, (2) **kindle** a passion

He **kindled** a fire in the fireplace to warm the room.

paranoia

n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability

synonym: suspicion, mistrust, delusions

(1) encourage **paranoia**, (2) suffering from **paranoia**

His **paranoia** about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

crackdown

n. a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior

synonym: clampdown, sweep, repression

(1) a citywide **crackdown**, (2) strict **crackdown**

The government announced a **crackdown** on illegal activities in the city.

fascist

adj. relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties

synonym: authoritarian, dictatorial, totalitarian

(1) **fascist** propaganda, (2) **fascist** policies

The regime was accused of being **fascist** for their oppressive tactics.

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**.

dystopia

n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

synonym: anti-utopia

(1) a crumbling **dystopia**, (2) the escape from **dystopia**

The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into **dystopias**.

constrict

v. to make something narrow or tight, often restricting movement or flow; to become narrow or tighter

synonym: squeeze, compress, tighten

(1) **constrict** blood vessels, (2) **constrict** freedom

The snake's muscles began to **constrict** around its prey.

apathy

n. lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm

synonym: affectlessness, dispassion, indifference

(1) **apathy** in the election, (2) political **apathy**

The global economic crisis has led to pervasive **apathy** and powerlessness.

capitalize

v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

synonym: bankroll, finance, endow

(1) **capitalize** on an interest, (2) **capitalize** the 1st letter of a word

You must **capitalize** on your full of opportunities to become a

professor.

mindless

adj. lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed

synonym: senseless, thoughtless, irresponsible

(1) **mindless** task, (2) **mindless** entertainment

Mindless scrolling on social media can be a time waster.

flick

v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement

synonym: snap, tap, flip

(1) **flicker** candle, (2) **flick** through pages

He **flicked** the light switch, and the room was illuminated.

smack

v. to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke

synonym: hit, slap, strike

(1) **smack** on the lips, (2) **smack** his knee

The baseball player **smacked** the ball out of the park, securing a home run.

wallop

n. a heavy blow or punch; a sudden, powerful impact; a defeat or setback that is particularly severe or decisive

synonym: whack, punch, hit

(1) pack a **wallop**, (2) emotional **wallop**

The boxer delivered a **wallop** to his opponent's chin, knocking him out.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

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.

parable

n. a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson

synonym: allegory, fable, tale

(1) **parable** story, (2) biblical **parable**

Jesus quoted **parables** to teach important lessons to his disciples.

complicit

adj. involved in or responsible for a wrongful or unethical act, often through inaction or silence; in cooperation with another person or group

synonym: compliant, involved, accessory

(1) **complicit** behavior, (2) **complicit** in cover-up

The accomplice was **complicit** in the crime committed by her partner.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. suffering from pa_____ia | <i>n.</i> a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability |
| 2. ancient t__e | <i>n.</i> a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book |
| 3. decided to be a fir_____er | <i>n.</i> a person whose job is to extinguish fires |
| 4. am_____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 5. emotional wa____p | <i>n.</i> a heavy blow or punch; a sudden, powerful impact; a defeat or setback that is particularly severe or decisive |
| 6. cap_____ze on an interest | <i>v.</i> to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something |
| 7. thrown out into mi____r | <i>n.</i> some point in the air; above ground level |
| 8. pr_____nt dream | <i>adj.</i> having or showing knowledge of events or situations before they occur; foreknowing or prophetic |
| 9. de____t a feeling of isolation | <i>v.</i> to illustrate someone or something in a photograph |
| 10. ke_____ne stove | <i>n.</i> a flammable, colorless, or pale yellow liquid derived from the distillation of petroleum, used as a fuel for lamps, stoves, and heaters |

ANSWERS: 1. paranoia, 2. tome, 3. firefighter, 4. amplify, 5. wallop, 6. capitalize, 7. midair, 8. prescient, 9. depict, 10. kerosene

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11. t__e of knowledge | <i>n.</i> | a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book |
| 12. de___t a scene | <i>v.</i> | to illustrate someone or something in a photograph |
| 13. pa___r game | <i>n.</i> | a room in a house used for socializing or entertaining guests, often furnished with comfortable seating and decorative accents |
| 14. political ap___y | <i>n.</i> | lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm |
| 15. br__k of war | <i>n.</i> | the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place |
| 16. fl__ker candle | <i>v.</i> | to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement |
| 17. pa_____e story | <i>n.</i> | a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson |
| 18. sm__k on the lips | <i>v.</i> | to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke |
| 19. ab___e with passion | <i>adj.</i> | on fire; burning brightly |
| 20. am_____y the effect | <i>v.</i> | to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 21. ignorance is bl__s | <i>n.</i> | extreme happiness or joy |
| 22. ki___e strife | <i>v.</i> | to start a fire; to light |
| 23. co_____ct freedom | <i>v.</i> | to make something narrow or tight, often restricting movement or flow; to become narrow or tighter |

ANSWERS: 11. tome, 12. depict, 13. parlor, 14. apathy, 15. brink, 16. flick, 17. parable, 18. smack, 19. ablaze, 20. amplify, 21. bliss, 22. kindle, 23. constrict

24. sky ab___e with stars *adj.* on fire; burning brightly
25. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
26. encourage pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
27. sm__k his knee *v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
28. ki___e a passion *v.* to start a fire; to light
29. biblical pa_____e *n.* a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
30. con_____nd detection dog *n.* goods that are prohibited from being imported or exported, or otherwise possessed and traded without proper authorization or legal permission
31. pack a wa___p *n.* a heavy blow or punch; a sudden, powerful impact; a defeat or setback that is particularly severe or decisive
32. bl__e with fury *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
33. di_____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
34. ultimate bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy

ANSWERS: 24. ablaze, 25. brink, 26. paranoia, 27. smack, 28. kindle, 29. parable, 30. contraband, 31. wallop, 32. blaze, 33. diminish, 34. bliss

35. mi_____ss entertainment *adj.* lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed
36. cap_____ze the 1st letter of a word *v.* to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
37. pl_____ed walls *adj.* made smooth by applying a sticky or glossy substance; very drunk
38. a crumbling dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
39. con_____nd goods *n.* goods that are prohibited from being imported or exported, or otherwise possessed and traded without proper authorization or legal permission
40. un____y relationship *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
41. beagle ho__d *v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity
42. play a pro_____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
43. forest fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires

ANSWERS: 35. mindless, 36. capitalize, 37. plastered, 38. dystopia, 39. contraband, 40. uneasy, 41. hound, 42. protagonist, 43. firefighter

44. co_____it behavior *adj.* involved in or responsible for a wrongful or unethical act, often through inaction or silence; in cooperation with another person or group
45. strict cr_____wn *n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
46. a citywide cr_____wn *n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
47. burning ke_____ne *n.* a flammable, colorless, or pale yellow liquid derived from the distillation of petroleum, used as a fuel for lamps, stoves, and heaters
48. fa_____t policies *adj.* relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
49. co_____it in cover-up *adj.* involved in or responsible for a wrongful or unethical act, often through inaction or silence; in cooperation with another person or group
50. have un___y eyes *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
51. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
52. ho__d him for payment *v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity

ANSWERS: 44. complicit, 45. crackdown, 46. crackdown, 47. kerosene, 48. fascist, 49. complicit, 50. uneasy, 51. protagonist, 52. hound

53. terrestrial sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
54. di_____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
55. beauty pa____r *n.* a room in a house used for socializing or entertaining guests, often furnished with comfortable seating and decorative accents
56. fa_____t propaganda *adj.* relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
57. co_____ct blood vessels *v.* to make something narrow or tight, often restricting movement or flow; to become narrow or tighter
58. bl__e a trail *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
59. mi_____ss task *adj.* lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed
60. the escape from dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
61. get absolutely pl_____ed *adj.* made smooth by applying a sticky or glossy substance; very drunk

ANSWERS: 53. salamander, 54. diminish, 55. parlor, 56. fascist, 57. constrict, 58. blaze, 59. mindless, 60. dystopia, 61. plastered

62. ap___y in the election *n.* lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm
63. a mi___r collision *n.* some point in the air; above ground level
64. semiaquatic sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
65. fl__k through pages *v.* to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement
66. pr_____nt vision *adj.* having or showing knowledge of events or situations before they occur; foreknowing or prophetic

ANSWERS: 62. apathy, 63. midair, 64. salamander, 65. flick, 66. prescient

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The police discovered _____ in the back of the suspect's vehicle.
n. goods that are prohibited from being imported or exported, or otherwise possessed and traded without proper authorization or legal permission

2. The building was _____ with fire.
adj. on fire; burning brightly

3. We plan to raise a giant _____ as a pet.
n. any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

4. _____ scrolling on social media can be a time waster.
adj. lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed

5. The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into _____.
n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

6. The accomplice was _____ in the crime committed by her partner.
adj. involved in or responsible for a wrongful or unethical act, often through inaction or silence; in cooperation with another person or group

7. The family gathered in the _____ to celebrate their grandmother's 90th birthday.
n. a room in a house used for socializing or entertaining guests, often furnished with comfortable seating and decorative accents

ANSWERS: 1. contraband, 2. ablaze, 3. salamander, 4. Mindless, 5. dystopias, 6. complicit, 7. parlor

8. He _____ the light switch, and the room was illuminated.
v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement
9. As people get old, their energies may _____.
v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
10. The wall was _____ with posters and graffiti.
adj. made smooth by applying a sticky or glossy substance; very drunk
11. He was _____ about the situation and didn't know what to do.
adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
12. His _____ about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.
n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
13. The baseball player _____ the ball out of the park, securing a home run.
v. to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
14. The _____ broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.
n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires
15. Jesus quoted _____ to teach important lessons to his disciples.
n. a short allegorical story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson

ANSWERS: 8. flicked, 9. diminish, 10. plastered, 11. uneasy, 12. paranoia, 13. smacked, 14. firefighter, 15. parables

16. The forest fire continued to _____ out of control, threatening nearby homes.
v. to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
17. The regime was accused of being _____ for their oppressive tactics.
adj. relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
18. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
19. The boxer delivered a _____ to his opponent's chin, knocking him out.
n. a heavy blow or punch; a sudden, powerful impact; a defeat or setback that is particularly severe or decisive
20. I spent the whole weekend reading an academic _____ about medieval history.
n. a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book
21. You must _____ on your full of opportunities to become a professor.
v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
22. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
23. The snake's muscles began to _____ around its prey.
v. to make something narrow or tight, often restricting movement or flow; to become narrow or tighter

ANSWERS: 16. blaze, 17. fascist, 18. protagonist's, 19. wallop, 20. tome, 21. capitalize, 22. depicted, 23. constrict

24. The _____ investor predicted the market crash and sold his stocks before it happened.
- adj.* having or showing knowledge of events or situations before they occur; foreknowing or prophetic
25. You might need to _____ this point.
- v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
26. The paparazzi constantly _____ celebrities for a photo or a story.
- v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity
27. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
- n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
28. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
- n.* extreme happiness or joy
29. The lamp in the cabin burned _____ for light.
- n.* a flammable, colorless, or pale yellow liquid derived from the distillation of petroleum, used as a fuel for lamps, stoves, and heaters
30. The government announced a _____ on illegal activities in the city.
- n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
31. He _____ a fire in the fireplace to warm the room.
- v.* to start a fire; to light

ANSWERS: 24. prescient, 25. amplify, 26. hound, 27. brink, 28. bliss, 29. kerosene, 30. crackdown, 31. kindled

32. The global economic crisis has led to pervasive _____ and powerlessness.

n. lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm

33. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.

n. some point in the air; above ground level

ANSWERS: 32. apathy, 33. midair