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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Iseult Gillespie: Why should you read Sylvia Plath? |

TED Talk

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

d_you_read_sylvia_plath



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Session 1: Word List

beckon

v. to gesture or signal someone to come nearer or follow; to encourage or entice someone to do something; to seem attractive or desirable

synonym: signal, summon, gesture

(1) **beckon** with a hand, (2) **beckon** a taxi

The warm sun and gentle breeze **beckoned** us to spend the day outside.

wrinkle

n. a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty

synonym: crinkle, fold, crumple

(1) a fine wrinkle on a fabric, (2) a facial wrinkle

This suit is made of wrinkle-proof material.

plop

 a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

synonym: drop, flop, plunk

(1) loud **plop**, (2) **plop** of water

The ball fell into the water with a **plop**.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel



synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) paralyze a city, (2) paralyze a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

shrewd

adj. marked by sharp intelligence and keen awareness;
 having good judgment and practical know-how;
 characterized by a savvy or astute manner

synonym: astute, sharp, clever

(1) **shrewd** negotiation tactics, (2) **shrewd** observation The **shrewd** businessman always knew the right moves to make to succeed.

haunting

adj. lingering in the mind or memory, often in a disturbing or unsettling way; (noun) something difficult to forget or shake off

synonym: lingering, disturbing, unsettling

(1) **haunting** memory, (2) a **haunting** sense of fear The song's **haunting** melody stayed with me long after I heard it.

slab

 a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure

synonym: slate, tile, paving stone

(1) a slab of chocolate, (2) marble slab

The construction workers poured a large **slab** of concrete for the foundation of the building.

penetrating

adj. able to pierce or enter deeply into something; having a sharp, intense quality that cuts through superficiality or confusion

synonym: keen, piercing, sharp

penetrating gaze, (2) penetrating analysis
 penetrating smell of freshly brewed coffee filled the room.

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.

captivate

- v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of
- synonym: enchant, charm, fascinate
- (1) captivate public sentiment, (2) captivate the mind

The magician **captivated** the audience with his illusions.

resonate

- v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
- synonym: echo, reverberate, resound
- (1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

colossus

 a person or thing that is unusually large, powerful, or impressive; a person or entity that is a dominant force in their field or industry

synonym: giant, titan, mammoth

(1) colossus company, (2) ancient colossus

The automobile industry is a **colossus** behemoth of the modern economy.

complexion

n. the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face

synonym: appearance, color, hue

(1) complexion cream, (2) dull complexion

Her skincare routine paid off, as her **complexion** was glowing and healthy-looking.

solace

 comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

synonym: comfort, condolence, peace

(1) **solace** in music, (2) offer **solace**

The grieving widow found **solace** in reading her late husband's letters.

topple

to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

synonym: overturn, capsize, upset

- (1) **topple** communist rule, (2) **topple** off a ledge
 The statue was old and unstable, so it easily **toppled** over.
- n. a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater

synonym: clam, oyster, bivalve

mussel shells, (2) mussel cultivation
 ordered the mussels in a white wine sauce for dinner.

has a hard, elongated shell and is edible

clump

mussel

- n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.synonym: cluster, bunch, bundle
- clump of bacteria, (2) a clump of trees
 heard the clump of his boots in the hallway.

heroine

 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

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

depress

- v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active synonym: sadden, discourage, deflate
- depress their spirits, (2) depress crop prices
 The economic recession depressed the housing market.

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.

snob

n. a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured

synonym: snoot, elitist, pretentious person

(1) have **snob** appeal, (2) rich **snob**

He's a **snob** when it comes to music and only listens to classical.

exemplify

- v. to serve as a typical example of somethingsynonym: 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.

forceful

adj. having or showing great strength or energy synonym: powerful, strong, energetic

forceful argument, (2) take forceful action
 She spoke with a forceful tone and made her point clear.

testament

a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else

synonym: proof, testimony, testimonial

(1) give properties by **testament**, (2) **testament** to the superior quality

His wealth is a **testament** to his success.

unflinching

 adj. not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute

synonym: resolute, steadfast, unwavering

(1) **unflinching** commitment, (2) **unflinching** gaze His **unflinching** courage in the face of danger was impressive.

touchstone

n. a standard or criterion by which something is judged or evaluated; a fine-grained dark stone, such as jasper or basalt, used to test the purity of gold or silver in alloys by observing how much the color changes when rubbed against it

synonym: benchmark, standard, criterion

(1) artistic **touchstone**, (2) the **touchstone** of truth

The **touchstone** for our company's success has always been our commitment to customer satisfaction.

heartbreak

- n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointmentsynonym: grief, sorrow, bitterness
- (1) ease her **heartbreak**, (2) go through **heartbreak**They had experienced the **heartbreak** of losing two children due to premature births.

stasis

 a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

synonym: stillness, inactivity, stagnation

(1) renal **stasis**, (2) **stasis** in development

The patient's **stasis** in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.

tor

 a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain

synonym: rock, peak, crag

(1) tor hill, (2) rocky tor

We had an excellent view of the surrounding landscape from the top of the granite **tor**.

horseback

- n. the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horsesynonym: equestrian, horse riding, mounted
- (1) **horseback** trek, (2) **horseback** adventure

 We went on a scenic trail ride on **horseback** through the mountains.

foreboding

 a feeling that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen; a sense of impending danger or doom

synonym: premonition, omen, portent

(1) foreboding sign, (2) ominous foreboding

The dark clouds in the sky created a sense of **foreboding** and made everyone anxious.

cauldron

 a large metal pot or kettle used for cooking or boiling liquids, often associated with witches or magic in folklore or mythology

synonym: pot, kettle

(1) steaming cauldron, (2) cauldron of soup

The witch stirred her bubbling **cauldron** filled with mysterious ingredients.

relic

 an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

synonym: whiff, vestige, antique

(1) historical relic, (2) holy relics

This bronze sword is a **relic** of ancient times.

crucify

 to execute someone by nailing or binding them to a cross, leaving them there to die

synonym: execute, martyr, nail to cross

(1) **crucify** a criminal, (2) **crucify** him for their actions The religious leaders wanted to **crucify** the heretic for his teachings.

dissatisfy

v. to fail to satisfy someone

synonym: disappoint, disgruntle, dishearten

(1) **dissatisfy** the users with bugs, (2) **dissatisfy** people with service

The company's results **dissatisfy** everyone.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

untimely

adj. happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time *synonym*: inappropriate, unfortunate, inopportune

(1) die an **untimely** death, (2) **untimely** snowfall in May The **untimely** arrival of the storm ruined their plans for a picnic.

astound

- v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise
- (1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

inexpressible

adj. not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication

synonym: unutterable, incommunicable, unspeakable

(1) **inexpressible** gratitude, (2) **inexpressible** pain The beauty of the sunset was so stunning that it brought **inexpressible** joy to my heart.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	pen	ng gaze	adj.	able to pierce or enter deeply into
				something; having a sharp, intense
				quality that cuts through superficiality or

confusion

a person who believes themselves to be 2. have s b appeal n. socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured

go through hea____ak a feeling of great sadness or n. disappointment

ease her hea____ak a feeling of great sadness or n. disappointment

holy re__cs an object from a previous era, n. especially one of historical value

> adj. able to pierce or enter deeply into something; having a sharp, intense quality that cuts through superficiality or confusion

adj. lingering in the mind or memory, often in a disturbing or unsettling way; (noun) something difficult to forget or shake off

a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty

to receive money, property, or a title ν . from someone after they have died

3.

4.

5.

pen____ng analysis 6.

a ha ng sense of fear 7.

8. a facial wr e

in____t estate 9.

ANSWERS: 1. penetrating, 2. snob, 3. heartbreak, 4. heartbreak, 5. relic, 6. penetrating, 7. haunting, 8. wrinkle, 9. inherit

10. steaming ca on a large metal pot or kettle used for n. cooking or boiling liquids, often associated with witches or magic in folklore or mythology a person who believes themselves to be 11. rich s b n. socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured a short and soft sound like that of a 12. loud p p n. small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water 13. to___e communist rule to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing to charge or criticize someone with a 14. ac e each other ν. crime or wrongdoing 15. historical re c an object from a previous era, n. especially one of historical value to make someone feel sad, low in 16. de s crop prices ν. spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active 17. pa___ze a person to cause a person or part of the body to ν. become unable to move or feel 18. to___e off a ledge to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing 19. de t a feeling of isolation to illustrate someone or something in a ν. photograph 20. unf ng commitment adj. not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast

ANSWERS: 10. cauldron, 11. snob, 12. plop, 13. topple, 14. accuse, 15. relic, 16. depress, 17. paralyze, 18. topple, 19. depict, 20. unflinching

and resolute

21.	paze a city	<i>v</i> .	to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
22.	caon of soup	n.	a large metal pot or kettle used for cooking or boiling liquids, often associated with witches or magic in folklore or mythology
23.	cous company	n.	a person or thing that is unusually large, powerful, or impressive; a person or entity that is a dominant force in their field or industry
24.	disfy the users with bugs	<i>v</i> .	to fail to satisfy someone
25.	wiy cartoon	adj.	cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
26.	ineble pain	adj.	not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication
27.	forng sign	n.	a feeling that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen; a sense of impending danger or doom
28.	exfy the solution	<i>v</i> .	to serve as a typical example of something
29.	soe in music	n.	comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
30.	exfy the importance	ν.	to serve as a typical example of something

ANSWERS: 21. paralyze, 22. cauldron, 23. colossus, 24. dissatisfy, 25. witty, 26. inexpressible, 27. foreboding, 28. exemplify, 29. solace, 30. exemplify

31.	give properties by tent	n.	a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
32.	p_p of water	n.	a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
33.	sts in development	n.	a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease
34.	unly snowfall in May	adj.	happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
35.	asd everyone	<i>v</i> .	to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
36.	int ancestral property	<i>v</i> .	to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
37.	ben a taxi	<i>v</i> .	to gesture or signal someone to come nearer or follow; to encourage or entice someone to do something; to seem attractive or desirable
38.	cate the mind	<i>v</i> .	to attract and hold the attention or interest of
39.	a clp of trees	n.	a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
40.	ineble gratitude	adj.	not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication
41.	ace his rudeness	ν.	to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
AN	SWERS: 31. testament, 32. plop, 33. sta	asis,	34. untimely, 35. astound, 36. inherit,

37. beckon, 38. captivate, 39. clump, 40. inexpressible, 41. accuse

42.	deeply rete with the consumers	v.	to be filled with a deep echoing sound
43.	mul shells	n.	a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater has a hard, elongated shell and is edible
44.	muI cultivation	n.	a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater has a hard, elongated shell and is edible
45.	asd the viewer	<i>v</i> .	to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
46.	rete in the same frequency	v.	to be filled with a deep echoing sound
47.	foul argument	adj.	having or showing great strength or energy
48.	marble sb	n.	a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
49.	cate public sentiment	<i>v</i> .	to attract and hold the attention or interest of
50.	artistic toune	n.	a standard or criterion by which something is judged or evaluated; a fine-grained dark stone, such as jasper or basalt, used to test the purity of gold or silver in alloys by observing how much the color changes when rubbed against it
51.	unfng gaze	adj.	not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute

ANSWERS: 42. resonate, 43. mussel, 44. mussel, 45. astound, 46. resonate, 47. forceful, 48. slab, 49. captivate, 50. touchstone, 51. unflinching

52.	take foul action	adj.	having or showing great strength or energy
53.	comon cream	n.	the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face
54.	die an unly death	adj.	happening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
55.	make wiy remarks	adj.	cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
56.	rocky t_r	n.	a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain
57.	renal sts	n.	a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease
58.	ominous forng	n.	a feeling that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen; a sense of impending danger or doom
59.	a sb of chocolate	n.	a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
60.	medieval hee	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
61.	tent to the superior quality	n.	a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else

ANSWERS: 52. forceful, 53. complexion, 54. untimely, 55. witty, 56. tor, 57. stasis, 58. foreboding, 59. slab, 60. heroine, 61. testament

62.	cry him for their actions	ν.	to execute someone by nailing or binding them to a cross, leaving them there to die
63.	a fine wre on a fabric	n.	a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty
64.	hock adventure	n.	the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
65.	shd negotiation tactics	adj.	marked by sharp intelligence and keen awareness; having good judgment and practical know-how; characterized by a savvy or astute manner
66.	det a scene	<i>v</i> .	to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
67.	des their spirits	ν.	to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
68.	disfy people with service	<i>v</i> .	to fail to satisfy someone
69.	offer soe	n.	comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
70.	ancient cous	n.	a person or thing that is unusually large, powerful, or impressive; a person or entity that is a dominant force in their field or industry
71.	t_r hill	n.	a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain

ANSWERS: 62. crucify, 63. wrinkle, 64. horseback, 65. shrewd, 66. depict, 67. depress, 68. dissatisfy, 69. solace, 70. colossus, 71. tor

72.	tragic hee	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
73.	dull comon	n.	the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face
74.	ben with a hand	v.	to gesture or signal someone to come nearer or follow; to encourage or entice someone to do something; to seem attractive or desirable
75.	cry a criminal	ν.	to execute someone by nailing or binding them to a cross, leaving them there to die
76.	the toune of truth	n.	a standard or criterion by which something is judged or evaluated; a fine-grained dark stone, such as jasper or basalt, used to test the purity of gold or silver in alloys by observing how much the color changes when rubbed against it
77.	hock trek	n.	the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
78.	shd observation	adj.	marked by sharp intelligence and keen awareness; having good judgment and practical know-how; characterized by a savvy or astute manner
79.	hang memory	adj.	lingering in the mind or memory, often in a disturbing or unsettling way; (noun) something difficult to forget or shake off

ANSWERS: 72. heroine, 73. complexion, 74. beckon, 75. crucify, 76. touchstone, 77. horseback, 78. shrewd, 79. haunting

80. cl__p of bacteria

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

ANSWERS: 80. clump

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Th	ne warm sun and gentle breeze us to spend the day outside.
	so gesture or signal someone to come nearer or follow; to encourage or entice someone to do something; to seem attractive or desirable
2. He	e's a when it comes to music and only listens to classical.
t	a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class han others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or ess cultured
3. I c	ordered the in a white wine sauce for dinner.
	a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater has a hard, elongated shell and is edible
4. Tł	ne company's results everyone.
v. t	o fail to satisfy someone
	ne beauty of the sunset was so stunning that it brought joy to y heart.
	not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication
6. Th	ne arrival of the storm ruined their plans for a picnic.
adj. I	nappening at an inappropriate or unfortunate time
7. Tł	ne religious leaders wanted to the heretic for his teachings.
	o execute someone by nailing or binding them to a cross, leaving them there to die
	VERS: 1. beckoned, 2. snob, 3. mussels, 4. dissatisfy, 5. inexpressible, 6. ely, 7. crucify

the natural color, texture, and appearance of a person's skin, especially their face

15. Her skincare routine paid off, as her _____ was glowing and

healthy-looking.

ANSWERS: 8. resonates, 9. depressed, 10. accused, 11. inherited, 12. unflinching, 13. paralyzed, 14. heroine, 15. complexion

16.	The smell of freshly brewed coffee filled the room.
adj	able to pierce or enter deeply into something; having a sharp, intense quality that cuts through superficiality or confusion
17.	We had an excellent view of the surrounding landscape from the top of the granite
n.	a peak or rocky outcrop on a hill or mountain; a high, craggy hill or rocky mountain
18.	This suit is made of material.
n.	a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty
19.	I heard the of his boots in the hallway.
n.	a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
20.	The comedian's jokes had the audience in stitches.
adj	cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
21.	The dark clouds in the sky created a sense of and made everyone anxious.
n.	a feeling that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen; a sense of impending danger or doom
22.	The for our company's success has always been our commitment to customer satisfaction.
n.	a standard or criterion by which something is judged or evaluated; a fine-grained dark stone, such as jasper or basalt, used to test the purity of gold or silver in alloys by observing how much the color changes when rubbed against it
	SWERS: 16. penetrating, 17. tor, 18. wrinkle-proof, 19. clump, 20. witty, 21. eboding, 22. touchstone

ANSWERS: 23. horseback, 24. exemplify, 25. haunting, 26. toppled, 27. plop, 28. astounding, 29. relic, 30. colossus, 31. cauldron

32.	The construction workers poured a large of concrete for the foundation of the building.
n.	a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
33.	They had experienced the of losing two children due to premature births.
n.	a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
34.	His son had accurately the bloom.
<i>v</i> .	to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
35.	The magician the audience with his illusions.
<i>v</i> .	to attract and hold the attention or interest of
36.	The grieving widow found in reading her late husband's letters.
n.	comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
37.	She spoke with a tone and made her point clear.
adj	having or showing great strength or energy
38.	His wealth is a to his success.
n.	a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
39.	The businessman always knew the right moves to make to succeed.
adj	marked by sharp intelligence and keen awareness; having good judgment and practical know-how; characterized by a savvy or astute manner
	SWERS: 32. slab, 33. heartbreak, 34. depicted, 35. captivated, 36. solace, 37. seful, 38. testament, 39. shrewd

40. The patient's _____ in the hospital was concerning to the doctors.

n. a state of stillness or immobility, often used in a medical context to refer to a lack of change or progress in a condition or disease

ANSWERS: 40. stasis