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Iseult Gillespie: Everything you need to know to read "The Canterbury Tales" | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

miller

n. a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill

synonym: grinder, pulverizer, crusher

(1) **miller** flour, (2) water **mill**

The **millers'** work was a vital component of the local economy, providing flour to the bakeries and farmers in the area.

sober

adj. not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises

synonym: calm, lucid, temperate

(1) **sober** discussion, (2) as **sober** as a judge

He led a **sober** life.

ramble

v. to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction

synonym: wander, meander, stroll

(1) **ramble** down the road, (2) **ramble** through the woods
I like to **ramble** through the park, exploring its hidden paths and natural beauty.

flighty

adj. unstable, unpredictable, or easily distracted; impulsive or prone to making hasty decisions

synonym : flaky, erratic, capricious

(1) **flighty** decisions, (2) **flighty** personality

Her **flighty** behavior made it challenging to work with her on a team.

crotch

n. the part of the body between the legs where they join the torso, including the area around the genitals

synonym : groin, loin, genitals

(1) **crotch** portion, (2) **crotch** of trousers

She kicked him hard in the **crotch**.

carpenter

n. a woodworker whose job is to make or repair wooden objects

synonym : woodworker, artisan

(1) a short **carpenter** nail, (2) an apprentice **carpenter**

Carpenter bees are boring holes into the wall.

feign

v. to pretend to have or to be affected by something, usually to deceive or trick someone

synonym : pretend, simulate, falsify

(1) **feign** a stomachache, (2) **feign** a false laugh

Some animals **feign** death when in danger.

tiresome

adj. causing weariness, boredom, or annoyance; dull, monotonous, or tedious

synonym : dreary, boring, tedious

(1) **tiresome** task, (2) a **tiresome** person

The **tiresome** argument between the two politicians seems to have no end.

poke

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

synonym : prod, jab, push

(1) **poke** around the desk, (2) **poke** a fire

They **poked** fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

bawdy

adj. indecent or obscene, especially about sexual matters
synonym : obscene, vulgar, ribald

(1) **bawdy** joke, (2) **bawdy** language

The movie was criticized for its **bawdy** humor.

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.

nun

n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community

synonym : sister, religious, monastic

(1) **nun** habit, (2) meditating **nun**

The cloistered **nun** devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.

recognizable

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

synonym : noticeable, perceptible, definite

(1) to a **recognizable** degree, (2) **recognizable** landmark

His car was easily **recognizable** in the parking lot.

Norman

adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

synonym : medieval, antique, archaic

(1) **norman** cathedral, (2) **norman** invasion

The **Norman** architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.

conquest

n. the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation

synonym : subjugation, domination, mastery

(1) imperial **conquest**, (2) make a **conquest**
He continued to grow his empire through **conquest**.

archaic

adj. old and no longer used or applicable; of or seeming to belong to an ancient period in history

synonym: ancient, antique, old-fashioned

(1) **archaic** humans, (2) seem somewhat **archaic**
He deliberately read picture books in an **archaic** way to please the children.

loquacious

adj. very talkative; tending to talk a lot and at length

synonym: chatty, talkative, garrulous

(1) **loquacious** chatter, (2) **loquacious** interviewee
The **loquacious** salesman talked for hours without letting the customer get a word in.

pilgrim

n. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion

synonym: traveler, wayfarer, sojourner

(1) shrine for **pilgrims**, (2) **pilgrim** site
The group of **pilgrims** walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.

shrine

n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship

synonym: altar, temple, monument

(1) **shrine** temple, (2) religious **shrine**
The holy **shrine** to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.

martyr

n. a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs

synonym: sufferer, saint

(1) X-ray **martyrs**, (2) a Christian **martyr**
He died a **martyr** to science.

archbishop

n. a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region

synonym : bishop, prelate, metropolitan

(1) **archbishop's** palace, (2) interim **archbishop**

The **archbishop's** sermon was a powerful message of hope and encouragement.

cathedral

n. the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area

synonym : church, basilica, temple

(1) **cathedral** school, (2) **cathedral** choir

The **cathedral's** stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.

nosy

adj. characterized by interfering or prying into other people's affairs; excessively curious about the affairs of others

synonym : curious, prying, intrusive

(1) **nosy** journalist, (2) **nosy** questions

My **nosy** neighbor is always peering over our fence to see what we're doing in the backyard.

feudal

adj. relating to a system of government in which a lord has certain rights and responsibilities to vassals in exchange for military service or other services that developed in Europe in the 8th century

synonym : medieval, feudalistic, aristocratic

(1) a **feudal** lord, (2) **feudal** dictatorship

Lords and serfs characterized the **feudal** system of medieval Europe.

peasant

n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

synonym : farmer, laborer, rustic

(1) **peasant** class, (2) exploited **peasant**

Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a **peasant**, but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.

serf *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
synonym : peasant, slave, servant

(1) **serf** labor, (2) medieval **serfs**

My history class discussed the **serf-based** economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.

intellect *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
synonym : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

panoramic *adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
synonym : expansive, wide-ranging, scenic

(1) **panoramic** landscape, (2) **panoramic** camera

We hiked to the top of the hill for a **panoramic** view of the city below.

mockery *n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
synonym : ridicule, derision, taunt

(1) **mockery** of the situation, (2) public **mockery**

The comedian's **mockery** of the recent political scandal drew laughs from the crowd.

quirk *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
synonym : eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

ribald

adj. marked by vulgar or indecent humor; coarse or crude in a way that is considered offensive or inappropriate

synonym: vulgar, crude, obscene

(1) **ribald** comment, (2) **ribald** gesture

The **ribald** joke made everyone in the room burst out laughing.

solemn

adj. formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor

synonym: serious, grave, somber

(1) **solemn** vow, (2) **solemn** ceremony

The priest led the **solemn** procession through the church.

squire

n. a man of rank or wealth, especially one acting as an attendant to a knight

synonym: gentleman, knight, retainer

(1) **squire** of a knight, (2) **squire** of a castle

The country **squire** served as the trusted advisor to the knight.

satirize

v. to use humor, irony, or sarcasm to expose and criticize the foolishness or vices of a person, group, or society; to use satire as a means of social or political commentary

synonym: mock, ridicule, parody

(1) **satirize** mainstream media, (2) **satirize** celebrities

The comedian used humor to **satirize** the political system and its flaws.

worldview

n. a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world

synonym: perspective, position, viewpoint

(1) mainstream **worldview**, (2) the **worldview** of the ancient civilization

The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing **worldviews**.

dialect

n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

synonym: accent, language, vernacular

(1) a local **dialect**, (2) minority **dialect**

The **dialect** spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

chivalry

n. the medieval knightly system of ethics and honor, especially concerning bravery, courtesy, and protection of the weak

synonym: gallantry, bravery, noble conduct

(1) **chivalry** code, (2) romance of **chivalry**

The knight's display of **chivalry** impressed the princess.

riff

v. to play a short, repeated, tuneful phrase, often used in jazz and rock; to improvise or go off on a humorous tangent; (noun) a short, repeated, tuneful phrase

(1) rock 'n' roll **riff**, (2) **riff** off the audience's reactions

She began to **riff** on the theme of love lost in her poetry.

narrator

n. a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film

synonym: teller, storyteller

(1) first-person **narrator**, (2) the **narrator** of the TV program

The **narrator** makes use of the local dialect.

deviate

v. to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach

synonym: stray, diverge, veer

(1) **deviate** from the norm, (2) **deviate** from the plan

It's important not to **deviate** from the established safety

procedures.

slapstick

n. a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps

synonym : farce, comedy, humor

(1) **slapstick** comedy, (2) **slapstick** performance

The classic comedy routine was filled with **slapstick** humor.

prologue

n. an introduction to a literary work, typically one that sets the background or provides explanations of the events that follow

synonym : introduction, preface, opening

(1) **prologue** to the battle, (2) recite a **prologue**

The **prologue** of the play provides important background information for the audience.

apiece

adv. to, from, or by each one of a group

synonym : each

(1) one **apiece**, (2) give two dollars **apiece**

These toys are five dollars **apiece**.

innkeeper

n. a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight

synonym : host, landlord, proprietor

(1) a woman **innkeeper**, (2) his role as **innkeeper**

The kind **innkeeper** greeted the travelers warmly and showed them to their rooms.

victor

n. one who wins a game, competition, election, war, etc.

synonym : winner, conqueror, champion

(1) **victor** country, (2) the outright **victor**

The **victor** of the race was the favorite to win.

sumptuous

adj. involving the expenditure of great wealth or luxury; lavish or luxurious, in a way that is intended to impress or elicit admiration

synonym : luxurious, lavish, opulent

(1) **sumptuous** palace, (2) **sumptuous** decor

The **sumptuous** feast was fit for kings and queens, with all the delicacies and treats you could imagine.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sh___e temple
n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
2. ba__y joke
adj. indecent or obscene, especially about sexual matters
3. no___n invasion
adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
4. pa_____ic landscape
adj. relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
5. a lo__y peak
adj. elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
6. cr___h portion
n. the part of the body between the legs where they join the torso, including the area around the genitals
7. n__y journalist
adj. characterized by interfering or prying into other people's affairs; excessively curious about the affairs of others
8. pi_____m site
n. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion

ANSWERS: 1. shrine, 2. bawdy, 3. Norman, 4. panoramic, 5. lofty, 6. crotch, 7. nosy, 8. pilgrim

9. the outright vi___r *n.* one who wins a game, competition, election, war, etc.
10. seem somewhat ar____c *adj.* old and no longer used or applicable; of or seeming to belong to an ancient period in history
11. p__e around the desk *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
12. s__f labor *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
13. exploited pe____t *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
14. su____us palace *adj.* involving the expenditure of great wealth or luxury; lavish or luxurious, in a way that is intended to impress or elicit admiration
15. shrine for pi____ms *n.* a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
16. make a co____st *n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
17. ra___e down the road *v.* to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction

ANSWERS: 9. victor, 10. archaic, 11. poke, 12. serf, 13. peasant, 14. sumptuous, 15. pilgrim, 16. conquest, 17. ramble

18. mainstream wo_____ew *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
19. rock 'n' roll r__f *v.* to play a short, repeated, tuneful phrase, often used in jazz and rock; to improvise or go off on a humorous tangent; (noun) a short, repeated, tuneful phrase
20. n__y questions *adj.* characterized by interfering or prying into other people's affairs; excessively curious about the affairs of others
21. to a rec_____ble degree *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
22. ra___e through the woods *v.* to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction
23. pr_____ue to the battle *n.* an introduction to a literary work, typically one that sets the background or provides explanations of the events that follow
24. a ti_____me person *adj.* causing weariness, boredom, or annoyance; dull, monotonous, or tedious
25. his role as in_____er *n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
26. no___n cathedral *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

ANSWERS: 18. worldview, 19. riff, 20. nosy, 21. recognizable, 22. ramble, 23. prologue, 24. tiresome, 25. innkeeper, 26. Norman

27. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
28. ti_____me task *adj.* causing weariness, boredom, or annoyance; dull, monotonous, or tedious
29. romance of ch_____ry *n.* the medieval knightly system of ethics and honor, especially concerning bravery, courtesy, and protection of the weak
30. medieval s__fs *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
31. ri___d comment *adj.* marked by vulgar or indecent humor; coarse or crude in a way that is considered offensive or inappropriate
32. ca_____al choir *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
33. fl_____y personality *adj.* unstable, unpredictable, or easily distracted; impulsive or prone to making hasty decisions
34. ba__y language *adj.* indecent or obscene, especially about sexual matters
35. recite a pr_____ue *n.* an introduction to a literary work, typically one that sets the background or provides explanations of the events that follow

ANSWERS: 27. quirk, 28. tiresome, 29. chivalry, 30. serf, 31. ribald, 32. cathedral, 33. flighty, 34. bawdy, 35. prologue

36. imperial co____st *n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
37. mi____r flour *n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
38. give two dollars ap____e *adv.* to, from, or by each one of a group
39. so__r discussion *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
40. pe____t class *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
41. fe____l dictatorship *adj.* relating to a system of government in which a lord has certain rights and responsibilities to vassals in exchange for military service or other services that developed in Europe in the 8th century
42. enrich my in____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
43. water mi____r *n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
44. loq____us interviewee *adj.* very talkative; tending to talk a lot and at length
45. a fe____l lord *adj.* relating to a system of government in which a lord has certain rights and responsibilities to vassals in exchange for military service or other services that developed in Europe in the 8th century

ANSWERS: 36. conquest, 37. miller, 38. apiece, 39. sober, 40. peasant, 41. feudal, 42. intellect, 43. miller, 44. loquacious, 45. feudal

46. arc_____op's palace *n.* a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region
47. interim arc_____op *n.* a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region
48. fe__n a stomachache *v.* to pretend to have or to be affected by something, usually to deceive or trick someone
49. ch_____ry code *n.* the medieval knightly system of ethics and honor, especially concerning bravery, courtesy, and protection of the weak
50. sa_____ze celebrities *v.* to use humor, irony, or sarcasm to expose and criticize the foolishness or vices of a person, group, or society; to use satire as a means of social or political commentary
51. a woman in_____er *n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
52. a local di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
53. X-ray ma_____rs *n.* a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs

ANSWERS: 46. archbishop, 47. archbishop, 48. feign, 49. chivalry, 50. satirize, 51. innkeeper, 52. dialect, 53. martyr

54. su_____us decor *adj.* involving the expenditure of great wealth or luxury; lavish or luxurious, in a way that is intended to impress or elicit admiration
55. first-person na_____or *n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
56. r__f off the audience's reactions *v.* to play a short, repeated, tuneful phrase, often used in jazz and rock; to improvise or go off on a humorous tangent; (noun) a short, repeated, tuneful phrase
57. public mo_____y *n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
58. as so__r as a judge *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
59. n_n habit *n.* a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
60. loq_____us chatter *adj.* very talkative; tending to talk a lot and at length
61. mo_____y of the situation *n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
62. fl_____y decisions *adj.* unstable, unpredictable, or easily distracted; impulsive or prone to making hasty decisions
63. so___n vow *adj.* formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor

ANSWERS: 54. sumptuous, 55. narrator, 56. riff, 57. mockery, 58. sober, 59. nun, 60. loquacious, 61. mockery, 62. flighty, 63. solemn

64. the wo_____ew of the ancient civilization *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
65. vi___r country *n.* one who wins a game, competition, election, war, etc.
66. sl_____ck comedy *n.* a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps
67. lo__y ambitions *adj.* elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
68. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
69. a short ca_____er nail *n.* a woodworker whose job is to make or repair wooden objects
70. p__e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
71. so___n ceremony *adj.* formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor
72. a Christian ma___r *n.* a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs
73. ar_____c humans *adj.* old and no longer used or applicable; of or seeming to belong to an ancient period in history

ANSWERS: 64. worldview, 65. victor, 66. slapstick, 67. lofty, 68. quirk, 69. carpenter, 70. poke, 71. solemn, 72. martyr, 73. archaic

74. rec_____ble landmark *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
75. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
76. one ap___e *adv.* to, from, or by each one of a group
77. minority di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
78. ri___d gesture *adj.* marked by vulgar or indecent humor; coarse or crude in a way that is considered offensive or inappropriate
79. the na_____or of the TV program *n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
80. de_____e from the norm *v.* to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach
81. sq___e of a knight *n.* a man of rank or wealth, especially one acting as an attendant to a knight
82. pa_____ic camera *adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
83. religious sh___e *n.* a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
84. fe__n a false laugh *v.* to pretend to have or to be affected by something, usually to deceive or trick someone

ANSWERS: 74. recognizable, 75. intellect, 76. apiece, 77. dialect, 78. ribald, 79. narrator, 80. deviate, 81. squire, 82. panoramic, 83. shrine, 84. feign

85. de____e from the plan *v.* to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach
86. sl_____ck performance *n.* a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps
87. cr___h of trousers *n.* the part of the body between the legs where they join the torso, including the area around the genitals
88. an apprentice ca_____er *n.* a woodworker whose job is to make or repair wooden objects
89. meditating n_n *n.* a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
90. ca_____al school *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
91. sa_____ze mainstream media *v.* to use humor, irony, or sarcasm to expose and criticize the foolishness or vices of a person, group, or society; to use satire as a means of social or political commentary
92. sq___e of a castle *n.* a man of rank or wealth, especially one acting as an attendant to a knight

ANSWERS: 85. deviate, 86. slapstick, 87. crotch, 88. carpenter, 89. nun, 90. cathedral, 91. satirize, 92. squire

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ salesman talked for hours without letting the customer get a word in.
adj. very talkative; tending to talk a lot and at length
2. The _____ sermon was a powerful message of hope and encouragement.
n. a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region
3. The _____ spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.
n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
4. It's important not to _____ from the established safety procedures.
v. to depart from an established course or plan; to change direction or take a different route or approach
5. I like to _____ through the park, exploring its hidden paths and natural beauty.
v. to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction
6. The _____ argument between the two politicians seems to have no end.
adj. causing weariness, boredom, or annoyance; dull, monotonous, or tedious
7. He led a _____ life.
adj. not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises

ANSWERS: 1. loquacious, 2. archbishop's, 3. dialect, 4. deviate, 5. ramble, 6. tiresome, 7. sober

8. The _____ joke made everyone in the room burst out laughing.
adj. marked by vulgar or indecent humor; coarse or crude in a way that is considered offensive or inappropriate
9. Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a _____ but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.
n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
10. She kicked him hard in the _____.
n. the part of the body between the legs where they join the torso, including the area around the genitals
11. The country _____ served as the trusted advisor to the knight.
n. a man of rank or wealth, especially one acting as an attendant to a knight
12. He deliberately read picture books in an _____ way to please the children.
adj. old and no longer used or applicable; of or seeming to belong to an ancient period in history
13. The priest led the _____ procession through the church.
adj. formal and dignified, often with an emphasis on religious or ceremonial attitudes or practices; characterized by an earnest sense of importance or gravity; serious or grave in tone or demeanor
14. Some animals _____ death when in danger.
v. to pretend to have or to be affected by something, usually to deceive or trick someone
15. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

ANSWERS: 8. ribald, 9. peasant, 10. crotch, 11. squire, 12. archaic, 13. solemn, 14. feign, 15. quirks

16. The holy _____ to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.
n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
17. The cloistered ____ devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.
n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
18. The comedian's _____ of the recent political scandal drew laughs from the crowd.
n. the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
19. His _____ goals were admirable but unrealistic.
adj. elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language
20. The comedian used humor to _____ the political system and its flaws.
v. to use humor, irony, or sarcasm to expose and criticize the foolishness or vices of a person, group, or society; to use satire as a means of social or political commentary
21. The _____ makes use of the local dialect.
n. a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
22. The kind _____ greeted the travelers warmly and showed them to their rooms.
n. a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
23. These toys are five dollars _____.
adv. to, from, or by each one of a group

ANSWERS: 16. shrine, 17. nun, 18. mockery, 19. lofty, 20. satirize, 21. narrator, 22. innkeeper, 23. apiece

24. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
25. The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing _____.
- n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
26. The group of _____ walked in silence, deep in thought and prayer.
- n.* a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion
27. The _____ feast was fit for kings and queens, with all the delicacies and treats you could imagine.
- adj.* involving the expenditure of great wealth or luxury; lavish or luxurious, in a way that is intended to impress or elicit admiration
28. The _____ of the race was the favorite to win.
- n.* one who wins a game, competition, election, war, etc.
29. The _____ stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.
- n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
30. They _____ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.
- v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
31. My history class discussed the _____ economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.
- n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority

ANSWERS: 24. intellect, 25. worldviews, 26. pilgrims, 27. sumptuous, 28. victor, 29. cathedral's, 30. poked, 31. serf-based

32. She began to _____ on the theme of love lost in her poetry.
- v.* to play a short, repeated, tuneful phrase, often used in jazz and rock; to improvise or go off on a humorous tangent; (noun) a short, repeated, tuneful phrase
33. My _____ neighbor is always peering over our fence to see what we're doing in the backyard.
- adj.* characterized by interfering or prying into other people's affairs; excessively curious about the affairs of others
34. The _____ work was a vital component of the local economy, providing flour to the bakeries and farmers in the area.
- n.* a person who operates a mill (= a plant consisting of one or more buildings with facilities for manufacturing), especially a grain mill
35. The movie was criticized for its _____ humor.
- adj.* indecent or obscene, especially about sexual matters
36. We hiked to the top of the hill for a _____ view of the city below.
- adj.* relating to an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area; all-encompassing
37. Her _____ behavior made it challenging to work with her on a team.
- adj.* unstable, unpredictable, or easily distracted; impulsive or prone to making hasty decisions
38. He continued to grow his empire through _____.
- n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
39. Lords and serfs characterized the _____ system of medieval Europe.
- adj.* relating to a system of government in which a lord has certain rights and responsibilities to vassals in exchange for military service or other services that developed in Europe in the 8th century

ANSWERS: 32. riff, 33. nosy, 34. miller's, 35. bawdy, 36. panoramic, 37. flighty, 38. conquest, 39. feudal

40. The _____ of the play provides important background information for the audience.

n. an introduction to a literary work, typically one that sets the background or provides explanations of the events that follow

41. The _____ architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.

adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

42. The knight's display of _____ impressed the princess.

n. the medieval knightly system of ethics and honor, especially concerning bravery, courtesy, and protection of the weak

43. He died a _____ to science.

n. a person who suffers very much or is killed for the sake of their religious or political beliefs

44. The classic comedy routine was filled with _____ humor.

n. a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps

45. His car was easily _____ in the parking lot.

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

46. _____ bees are boring holes into the wall.

n. a woodworker whose job is to make or repair wooden objects

ANSWERS: 40. prologue, 41. Norman, 42. chivalry, 43. martyr, 44. slapstick, 45. recognizable, 46. Carpenter