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Iseult Gillespie: The Irish myth of the Giant's Causeway | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

plateau

n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

synonym : mesa, tableland, plain

(1) **plateau** region, (2) **plateau** in performance

The hikers finally reached the **plateau** after a long climb up the mountain.

basalt

n. a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

synonym : volcanic rock, lava, igneous rock

(1) **basalt** rock, (2) **basalt** glass

The hiking trail was lined with towering **basalt** columns.

slab

n. 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.

causeway

n. a raised road or track, usually made of earth, gravel, or stone, that crosses a low or wetland area

synonym : embankment, causey, dike

(1) narrow **causeway**, (2) **causeway** bridge

We drove across the scenic coastal **causeway**, enjoying the beautiful ocean views.

molten

adj. in a liquid state as a result of being heated

synonym : melted, liquefied, fused

(1) a **molten** image, (2) **molten** lava

The **molten** metal was poured into the mold.

lava

n. molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material

synonym : molten rock, magma, volcanic rock

(1) **lava** flow, (2) molten **lava**

The volcano's eruption caused a **lava** river to flow down the mountainside.

eruption

n. an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something

synonym : explosion, outburst, burst

(1) **eruption** alert level, (2) emotional **eruption**

The volcanic **eruption** caused widespread destruction and left the area covered in ash.

taunt

v. to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner

synonym : tease, ridicule, jeer

(1) **taunt** him with cowardice, (2) **taunt** the losing team

She **taunted** him with sarcastic comments about his lack of success.

roar

v. to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine

synonym : bellow, yell, shout

(1) **roar** with laughter, (2) **roar** for more

The lion **roared** loudly, signaling its dominance over the other animals.

hurl

v. to throw something with great force

synonym: throw, fling, launch

(1) **hurl** a brickbat, (2) **hurl** a cup out of the window

She angrily **hurled** the book across the room.

clump

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

synonym: cluster, bunch, bundle

(1) **clump** of bacteria, (2) a **clump** of trees

I heard the **clump** of his boots in the hallway.

heave

v. to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea

synonym: lift, hoist, tug

(1) **heave** a sigh, (2) **heave** a boulder

The workers had to **heave** the heavy equipment up the staircase to the top floor.

isle

n. a small island, especially one in the sea

synonym: island, atoll, cay

(1) **isle** of paradise, (2) tiny **isle**

I love to spend my vacations on a beautiful **isle** with pristine beaches.

crater

n. a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

synonym: cavity, hole, pit

(1) **crater** lake, (2) lunar **crater**

An enormous **crater** marks the area where the vast volcanic explosion occurred.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym : agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

lough

n. (originating from Ireland and Scotland) a lake or a bay that is almost surrounded by land

synonym : lake, loch, pond

(1) tranquil **lough**, (2) picturesque **lough**

We went fishing on the calm waters of the **lough**, enjoying the peacefulness of the surroundings.

boulder

n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym : rock, stone, clump

(1) **boulder** field, (2) lava **boulder**

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

scot

n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant

synonym : tax, charge, toll

(1) pay annual **scot**, (2) traditional **Scot** attire

The **scot-free** suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.

loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym : appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

colossal

adj. extremely large and impressive

synonym : gigantic, huge, enormous

(1) **colossal** statue, (2) a **colossal** success

The new building is truly **colossal**, towering over the surrounding buildings.

falter

v. to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
synonym: hesitate, stumble, waver

(1) **falter** in decision-making, (2) **falter** in speech

My confidence began to **falter** as I gave my presentation in front of the class.

tremble

v. to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness

synonym: shiver, flutter, quaver

(1) **tremble** in fear, (2) **tremble** violently with emotion

When I heard the news, my whole body **trembled** with excitement.

hatch

v. to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

synonym: incubate, breed, produce

(1) **hatch** a plan, (2) **hatch** a baby chick

The eggs began to **hatch**, and the small chicks emerged.

cunning

adj. clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily

synonym: sly, crafty, tricky

(1) **cunning** plan, (2) **cunning** thief

The **cunning** fox managed to elude the hunters and escape with his prey.

disguise

v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

synonym: mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

enrage

v. to make someone extremely angry

synonym: anger, incense, infuriate

(1) **enrage** the international community, (2) **enrage** critics
The news of the betrayal **enraged** him.

shatter

v. to break suddenly into many pieces

synonym: break, crash, destroy

(1) **shatter** the plate, (2) **shatter** a world record
Her husband's death **shattered** her life entirely.

conceal

v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

synonym: hide, keep secret, camouflage

(1) **conceal** my identity, (2) **conceal** a close relationship
Despite the intense verbal abuse, she **concealed** her anger well.

sow

v. to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion

synonym: plant, scatter, seed

(1) **sow** wheat in a field, (2) **sow** discord

She carefully **sowed** the seeds in the garden.

squawk

v. to make a loud, harsh, or shrill noise or cry, often in a repetitive or complaining manner; to complain or protest loudly or vehemently

synonym: screech, shriek

(1) **squawk** for food, (2) **squawk** in protest

I could hear the seagulls **squawk** loudly as they flew over the beach.

hefty

adj. large, bulky, and heavy; impressively large, substantial, or powerful; large in amount, extent, or significance

synonym: weighty, substantial, sizeable

(1) **hefty** price, (2) **hefty** breakfast

The **hefty** box of books was too heavy to lift on my own.

swaddle

v. to wrap tightly with cloth or blankets, typically done with infants to provide them with a sense of security and comfort; to restrain or restrict movement by wrapping tightly

synonym : wrap, bundle, cocoon

(1) **swaddled** her son in a soft blanket, (2) **swaddle** my baby for sleep

New parents often **swaddle** their newborns to make them feel secure and comfortable.

shudder

v. to tremble uncontrollably or convulsively, often due to fear, cold, or intense emotion; to recoil or react strongly to something unpleasant, disturbing, or shocking

synonym : tremble, shake, quiver

(1) **shudder** at the thought, (2) **shudder** with fear

I couldn't help but **shudder** when I heard the scary noise from the dark alleyway.

Session 2: Spelling

1. co____al statue *adj.* extremely large and impressive
2. cu____g thief *adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily
3. r__r with laughter *v.* to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine
4. di____se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
5. emotional er____on *n.* an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something
6. sw____e my baby for sleep *v.* to wrap tightly with cloth or blankets, typically done with infants to provide them with a sense of security and comfort; to restrain or restrict movement by wrapping tightly
7. lunar cr____r *n.* a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite
8. s_w discord *v.* to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion
9. h__l a brickbat *v.* to throw something with great force
10. ha__h a plan *v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

ANSWERS: 1. colossal, 2. cunning, 3. roar, 4. disguise, 5. eruption, 6. swaddle, 7. crater, 8. sow, 9. hurl, 10. hatch

11. sh____r the plate *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
12. a co____al success *adj.* extremely large and impressive
13. sw____ed her sun in a soft blanket *v.* to wrap tightly with cloth or blankets, typically done with infants to provide them with a sense of security and comfort; to restrain or restrict movement by wrapping tightly
14. ba____t rock *n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava
15. fa____r in decision-making *v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
16. pl____u region *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
17. co____l a close relationship *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
18. ha__h a baby chick *v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
19. ba____t glass *n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava
20. he__e a sigh *v.* to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea

ANSWERS: 11. shatter, 12. colossal, 13. swaddle, 14. basalt, 15. falter, 16. plateau, 17. conceal, 18. hatch, 19. basalt, 20. heave

21. tr____e violently with emotion *v.* to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness
22. cu____g plan *adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily
23. pay annual s__t *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
24. ta__t the losing team *v.* to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner
25. en____e the international community *v.* to make someone extremely angry
26. tranquil lo__h *n.* (originating from Ireland and Scotland) a lake or a bay that is almost surrounded by land
27. r__r for more *v.* to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine
28. lava bo____r *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
29. di____se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
30. tiny i__e *n.* a small island, especially one in the sea
31. co____l my identity *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
32. he__e a boulder *v.* to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea

ANSWERS: 21. tremble, 22. cunning, 23. scot, 24. taunt, 25. enrage, 26. lough, 27. roar, 28. boulder, 29. disguise, 30. isle, 31. conceal, 32. heave

33. di____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
34. sq____k for food *v.* to make a loud, harsh, or shrill noise or cry, often in a repetitive or complaining manner; to complain or protest loudly or vehemently
35. en____e critics *v.* to make someone extremely angry
36. l__m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
37. he__y price *adj.* large, bulky, and heavy; impressively large, substantial, or powerful; large in amount, extent, or significance
38. sh____r with fear *v.* to tremble uncontrollably or convulsively, often due to fear, cold, or intense emotion; to recoil or react strongly to something unpleasant, disturbing, or shocking
39. ca____ay bridge *n.* a raised road or track, usually made of earth, gravel, or stone, that crosses a low or wetland area
40. i__e of paradise *n.* a small island, especially one in the sea
41. a mo____n image *adj.* in a liquid state as a result of being heated
42. cl__p of bacteria *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
43. a cl__p of trees *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
44. cr____r lake *n.* a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

ANSWERS: 33. disturb, 34. squawk, 35. enrage, 36. loom, 37. hefty, 38. shudder, 39. causeway, 40. isle, 41. molten, 42. clump, 43. clump, 44. crater

45. a s__b 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
46. molten l__a *n.* molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material
47. pl____u in performance *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
48. sq____k in protest *v.* to make a loud, harsh, or shrill noise or cry, often in a repetitive or complaining manner; to complain or protest loudly or vehemently
49. ta__t him with cowardice *v.* to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner
50. er____on alert level *n.* an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something
51. bo____r field *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
52. marble s__b *n.* a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure

ANSWERS: 45. slab, 46. lava, 47. plateau, 48. squawk, 49. taunt, 50. eruption, 51. boulder, 52. slab

53. narrow ca____ay *n.* a raised road or track, usually made of earth, gravel, or stone, that crosses a low or wetland area
54. traditional S__t attire *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
55. mo____n lava *adj.* in a liquid state as a result of being heated
56. l__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
57. fa____r in speech *v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
58. tr____e in fear *v.* to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness
59. he__y breakfast *adj.* large, bulky, and heavy; impressively large, substantial, or powerful; large in amount, extent, or significance
60. sh____r at the thought *v.* to tremble uncontrollably or convulsively, often due to fear, cold, or intense emotion; to recoil or react strongly to something unpleasant, disturbing, or shocking
61. sh____r a world record *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
62. picturesque lo__h *n.* (originating from Ireland and Scotland) a lake or a bay that is almost surrounded by land

ANSWERS: 53. causeway, 54. scot, 55. molten, 56. loom, 57. falter, 58. tremble, 59. hefty, 60. shudder, 61. shatter, 62. lough

63. l__a flow *n.* molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material
64. di____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
65. h__l a cup out of the window *v.* to throw something with great force
66. s_w wheat in a field *v.* to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion

ANSWERS: 63. lava, 64. disturb, 65. hurl, 66. sow

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We went fishing on the calm waters of the _____ enjoying the peacefulness of the surroundings.
 - n.* (originating from Ireland and Scotland) a lake or a bay that is almost surrounded by land

2. The news of the betrayal _____ him.
 - v.* to make someone extremely angry

3. She carefully _____ the seeds in the garden.
 - v.* to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion

4. I couldn't help but _____ when I heard the scary noise from the dark alleyway.
 - v.* to tremble uncontrollably or convulsively, often due to fear, cold, or intense emotion; to recoil or react strongly to something unpleasant, disturbing, or shocking

5. We drove across the scenic coastal _____ enjoying the beautiful ocean views.
 - n.* a raised road or track, usually made of earth, gravel, or stone, that crosses a low or wetland area

6. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
 - v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. lough, 2. enraged, 3. sowed, 4. shudder, 5. causeway, 6. disturb, 7. slab

8. Later it turned out that the politician _____ the fact from the public.
v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
9. The hikers finally reached the _____ after a long climb up the mountain.
n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
10. She _____ him with sarcastic comments about his lack of success.
v. to tease or ridicule in a challenging manner
11. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
12. I heard the _____ of his boots in the hallway.
n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
13. Her husband's death _____ her life entirely.
v. to break suddenly into many pieces
14. The volcanic _____ caused widespread destruction and left the area covered in ash.
n. an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something
15. The hiking trail was lined with towering _____ columns.
n. a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava
16. Despite the intense verbal abuse, she _____ her anger well.
v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

ANSWERS: 8. disguised, 9. plateau, 10. taunted, 11. loomed, 12. clump, 13. shattered, 14. eruption, 15. basalt, 16. concealed

17. She angrily _____ the book across the room.

v. to throw something with great force

18. The _____ fox managed to elude the hunters and escape with his prey.

adj. clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily

19. The workers had to _____ the heavy equipment up the staircase to the top floor.

v. to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea

20. The lion _____ loudly, signaling its dominance over the other animals.

v. to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine

21. The _____ box of books was too heavy to lift on my own.

adj. large, bulky, and heavy; impressively large, substantial, or powerful; large in amount, extent, or significance

22. The volcano's eruption caused a _____ river to flow down the mountainside.

n. molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material

23. The new building is truly _____ towering over the surrounding buildings.

adj. extremely large and impressive

24. An enormous _____ marks the area where the vast volcanic explosion occurred.

n. a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

ANSWERS: 17. hurled, 18. cunning, 19. heave, 20. roared, 21. hefty, 22. lava, 23. colossal, 24. crater

25. The hikers had to climb over a _____ that was blocking their path.
- n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
26. New parents often _____ their newborns to make them feel secure and comfortable.
- v.* to wrap tightly with cloth or blankets, typically done with infants to provide them with a sense of security and comfort; to restrain or restrict movement by wrapping tightly
27. When I heard the news, my whole body _____ with excitement.
- v.* to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness
28. My confidence began to _____ as I gave my presentation in front of the class.
- v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
29. I could hear the seagulls _____ loudly as they flew over the beach.
- v.* to make a loud, harsh, or shrill noise or cry, often in a repetitive or complaining manner; to complain or protest loudly or vehemently
30. The _____ metal was poured into the mold.
- adj.* in a liquid state as a result of being heated
31. The _____ suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.
- n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
32. The eggs began to _____ and the small chicks emerged.
- v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

ANSWERS: 25. boulder, 26. swaddle, 27. trembled, 28. falter, 29. squawk, 30. molten, 31. scot-free, 32. hatch,

33. I love to spend my vacations on a beautiful _____ with pristine beaches.

n. a small island, especially one in the sea

ANSWERS: 33. isle