*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde – list 1

1.  Sententious adj =moralizing in a pompous or affected manner

2.  Propound v =put forward (an idea, theory, or point of view) for consideration by others

3.  Ready money adj =available cash

4.  Expurgation n =remove matter thought to be objectionable or unsuitable from (a book or account)

5.  Metaphysical adj =based on abstract (typically, excessively abstract) reasoning

6. Christen v =to give (a baby) a Christian name at baptism as a sign of admission to a Christian Church

7. Recumbent adj =lying down, especially a person

8. Indecorous adj =not in good taste; improper

9. Tories n =American colonists who supported the British side during the American Revolution

10. Born in the purple =first meant born to royals, later meant born to high-ranking parents (at child’s birth)

11. The French Revolution =uprising in France against monarchy (1789-1799), led to French Republic

12. Trivet n =an iron tripod placed over a fire for a cooking pot or kettle to stand on

13. Gorgon n =three monsters in Greek mythology (including Medusa)

14. Profligate n =recklessly extravagant or wasteful; shamelessly immoral

15. Apoplexy n =unconsciousness or incapacitated because of a stroke

16. Vacillating v =alternate or waver between opinions or actions; indecisive

17. Pagan n =a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions

18. Quixotic adj. (QuickSAWtic) =exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

19. Misanthrope n =a person who dislikes people and avoids society

20. Solicitor n =a British lawyer who give legal advice

21. Indiscretion n =a petty misdeed

22. Indignation n =a feeling of righteous anger

23. Patronize v =treating someone with arrogance as though they are beneath you

24. Surmise v =to conclude without complete evidence

25. Immoderate adj =beyond reasonable limits

26. Utilitarian adj =having a useful function

27. Precept n = a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought

28. Impetuous adj =undue haste and lack of thought

29. Effeminate adj =unmanly, having characteristics typical of a woman

30. Arduous adj = strenuous effort; something difficult and tiring

Liberal unionism – British political party formed in 1886 by breaking away from the Liberal Party

Grosvenor Square was a large garden square in the Mayfair district of London, England. It was owned by Duke of Westminster and was the hub of society, a hangout for the elites. When Lady Bracknell frets about the lower classes being educated and therefore perhaps led to riots, she suggests that they might do so at this exclusive place.