

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Jamie Bernthal: How to write the perfect crime, according to Agatha Christie | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jamie\\_bernthal\\_how\\_to\\_write\\_the\\_perfect\\_crime\\_according\\_to\\_agatha\\_christie](https://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_bernthal_how_to_write_the_perfect_crime_according_to_agatha_christie)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

*synonym*: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

### misdirect

v. to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

*synonym*: misguide, mislead, botch

(1) **misdirect** my anger, (2) **misdirect** the letter

I believe this analysis is **misdirected** to some extent.

### eerie

*adj.* strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural

*synonym*: bizarre, creepy, dreadful

(1) **eerie** silence, (2) the **eerie** whistle of dropping bombs

The street was entirely silent and a bit **eerie**.

### trait

*n.* a particular feature of your nature

*synonym*: attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

## typecast

v. to always give an actor the same kind of character to play, usually because of their suitability

(1) **typecast** as a villain, (2) **typecast** for the role of a gangster

She didn't want to be **typecast** as a stupid blonde.

## stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

## emulate

v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

*synonym*: impersonate, mimic, imitate

(1) **emulate** a successful business model, (2) **emulate** his watercolors

They intend to **emulate** the footsteps of successful software companies.

## scribble

v. to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry

*synonym*: scabble, scrawl, jot

(1) **scribble** on paper, (2) **scribble** notes

The words were **scribbled** in pencil.

## overhear

v. to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

*synonym*: catch, eavesdrop

(1) happen to **overhear** a conversation, (2) accidentally **overheard** their talk

She was inside at the time and **overheard** the conversation.

## rearrange

v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

*synonym*: readjust, reorganize, reconstruct

(1) **rearrange** the furniture, (2) **rearrange** his schedule  
Please **rearrange** these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

## murky

*adj.* dark and gloomy or difficult to see through  
*synonym*: dim, fuzzy, foggy

(1) **murky** waters, (2) a **murky** dungeon  
Prospects for the suspect's conviction are **murky** due to a lack of helpful evidence.

## disorient

*v.* to make someone confused about where they are or where they should go

*synonym*: confuse, flummox, perplex

(1) **disorient** his audience, (2) **disorient** and wrong-foot viewers

Several studies have indicated that human activity at sea might **disorient** dolphins and whales.

## confuse

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym*: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality  
Her remarks **confused** the debate.

## convoluted

*adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

*synonym*: intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language  
James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

## snappy

*adj.* lively or energetic; smart and fashionable

*synonym*: quick, speedy, brisk

(1) **snappy** weather, (2) **snappy** performance  
I particularly enjoyed the old sitcom references and the **snappy** dialogue.

## **mislead**

*v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true  
*synonym* : misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy  
Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

## **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.

## **sleuth**

*n.* a person who conducts criminal investigations  
*synonym* : gumshoe, detective, investigator

(1) **sleuth-hound**, (2) amateur **sleuth**  
He hired a **sleuth** to uncover his rival's wrongdoing.

## **eccentric**

*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way  
*synonym* : bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters  
He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

## **blueprint**

*n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine  
*synonym* : draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**  
A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

## **stump**

*v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

*synonym* : mix up

(1) the riddle **stumped** everybody, (2) we are **stumped** with the problem

He is **stumped** with the question.

## **uncover**

*v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

*synonym* :

disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

## Session 2: Spelling

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|---|---|
| 1. negative ste_____pes                 | <i>n.</i> a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 2. sc__f at a rumor                     | <i>v.</i> to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly   |
| 3. em_____e a successful business model | <i>v.</i> to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else  |
| 4. sl___h-hound                         | <i>n.</i> a person who conducts criminal investigations   |
| 5. mi_____d the enemy                   | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to believe something that is not true  |
| 6. co_____e fantasy with reality        | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand   |
| 7. un_____r a potential problem         | <i>v.</i> to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden   |
| 8. sc_____le notes                      | <i>v.</i> to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry  |
| 9. mu__y waters                         | <i>adj.</i> dark and gloomy or difficult to see through   |
| 10. display ec_____ic behavior          | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way  |

ANSWERS: 1. stereotype, 2. scoff, 3. emulate, 4. sleuth, 5. mislead, 6. confuse, 7. uncover, 8. scribble, 9. murky, 10. eccentric

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|--|------|---|
| 11. mi____d him into trusting her      | v.   | to cause someone to believe something that is not true  |
| 12. mi_____ct my anger                 | v.   | to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction  |
| 13. ee__e silence                      | adj. | strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural   |
| 14. avoid ste_____pe                   | n.   | a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 15. con_____ed plot                    | adj. | extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand  |
| 16. architect's bl_____nt              | n.   | a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine   |
| 17. accidentally ov_____ard their talk | v.   | to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge   |
| 18. ty_____st as a villain             | v.   | to always give an actor the same kind of character to play, usually because of their suitability  |
| 19. a mu__y dungeon                    | adj. | dark and gloomy or difficult to see through   |
| 20. re_____ge the furniture            | v.   | to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned  |
| 21. happen to ov_____ar a conversation | v.   | to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge   |

ANSWERS: 11. mislead, 12. misdirect, 13. eerie, 14. stereotype, 15. convoluted, 16. blueprint, 17. overhear, 18. typecast, 19. murky, 20. rearrange, 21. overhear

22. ty\_\_\_\_st for the role of a gangster      *v.* to always give an actor the same kind of character to play, usually because of their suitability
23. sc\_\_f at the idea      *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
24. di\_\_\_\_\_nt and wrong-foot viewers      *v.* to make someone confused about where they are or where they should go
25. sn\_\_\_y performance      *adj.* lively or energetic; smart and fashionable
26. sn\_\_\_y weather      *adj.* lively or energetic; smart and fashionable
27. first-person na\_\_\_\_or      *n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
28. co\_\_\_\_e the listener      *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
29. the na\_\_\_\_or of the TV program      *n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
30. amateur sl\_\_\_\_h      *n.* a person who conducts criminal investigations
31. we are st\_\_ped with the problem      *v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
32. re\_\_\_\_\_ge his schedule      *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
33. bl\_\_\_\_\_nt for economic reform      *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

ANSWERS: 22. typecast, 23. scoff, 24. disorient, 25. snappy, 26. snappy, 27. narrator, 28. confuse, 29. narrator, 30. sleuth, 31. stump, 32. rearrange, 33. blueprint



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|---|--|
| 34. chemical tr__t                      | <i>n.</i> a particular feature of your nature  |
| 35. di_____nt his audience              | <i>v.</i> to make someone confused about where they are or where they should go  |
| 36. the riddle st__ped everybody        | <i>v.</i> to cause to be perplexed or confused;<br>(noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled |
| 37. ec_____ic characters                | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way   |
| 38. em_____e his watercolors            | <i>v.</i> to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else                                       |
| 39. sc_____le on paper                  | <i>v.</i> to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry   |
| 40. the ee__e whistle of dropping bombs | <i>adj.</i> strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural  |
| 41. con_____ed legal language           | <i>adj.</i> extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand   |
| 42. mi_____ct the letter                | <i>v.</i> to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction       |
| 43. personality tr__ts                  | <i>n.</i> a particular feature of your nature  |
| 44. un_____r the truth                  | <i>v.</i> to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden  |

ANSWERS: 34. trait, 35. disorient, 36. stump, 37. eccentric, 38. emulate, 39. scribble, 40. eerie, 41. convoluted, 42. misdirect, 43. trait, 44. uncover

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ makes use of the local dialect.  
*n.* a person who tells a story, especially in a book or film
2. Multiple genes may influence behavioral \_\_\_\_\_ concurrently.  
*n.* a particular feature of your nature
3. Our troops pulled back to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy.  
*v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
4. Changing \_\_\_\_\_ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.  
*n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
5. He hired a \_\_\_\_\_ to uncover his rival's wrongdoing.  
*n.* a person who conducts criminal investigations
6. We tend to \_\_\_\_\_ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.  
*v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
7. A business plan is a \_\_\_\_\_ for your success.  
*n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
8. She didn't want to be \_\_\_\_\_ as a stupid blonde.  
*v.* to always give an actor the same kind of character to play, usually because of their suitability

ANSWERS: 1. narrator, 2. traits, 3. mislead, 4. stereotypes, 5. sleuth, 6. scoff, 7. blueprint, 8. typecast

9. The words were \_\_\_\_\_ in pencil.

v. to write or draw carelessly and in a hurry

10. Prospects for the suspect's conviction are \_\_\_\_\_ due to a lack of helpful evidence.

adj. dark and gloomy or difficult to see through

11. He continued his investigation and soon \_\_\_\_\_ another crime.

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

12. They intend to \_\_\_\_\_ the footsteps of successful software companies.

v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

13. I believe this analysis is \_\_\_\_\_ to some extent.

v. to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

14. She was inside at the time and \_\_\_\_\_ the conversation.

v. to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

15. He was \_\_\_\_\_ but he was also a genius.

adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

16. The street was entirely silent and a bit \_\_\_\_\_.

adj. strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural

17. He is \_\_\_\_\_ with the question.

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

ANSWERS: 9. scribbled, 10. murky, 11. uncovered, 12. emulate, 13. misdirected, 14. overheard, 15. eccentric, 16. eerie, 17. stumped

18. I particularly enjoyed the old sitcom references and the \_\_\_\_\_ dialogue.

*adj.* lively or energetic; smart and fashionable

19. Please \_\_\_\_\_ these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

*v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

20. Several studies have indicated that human activity at sea might \_\_\_\_\_ dolphins and whales.

*v.* to make someone confused about where they are or where they should go

21. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

22. James Joyce's books are full of long, \_\_\_\_\_ sentences.

*adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

ANSWERS: 18. snappy, 19. rearrange, 20. disorient, 21. confused, 22. convoluted