

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Henri Picciotto: Can you solve the alien pyramid riddle? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/henri\\_picciotto\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_alien\\_pyramid\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/henri_picciotto_can_you_solve_the_alien_pyramid_riddle)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### subterranean

*adj.* under the ground

*synonym:* underground, belowground, subsurface

(1) **subterranean** rooms, (2) **subterranean** motives for murder

Such **subterranean** passages span kilometers in London.

### Mars

*n.* a small reddish planet that revolves around the sun at the fourth position and is periodically visible to the naked eye

(1) **Mars** colonization, (2) **Mars** exploration

The ice caps on the poles of **Mars** are permanent.

### bury

*v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb  
*synonym:* entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

### pictogram

*n.* a graphic symbol that conveys its meaning through its pictorial resemblance to a physical object

(1) **pictogram** color, (2) a **pictogram** code

That town installed signs digitally displaying **pictograms** to reduce traffic accidents.

## fortuitous

*adj.* not planned; happening by lucky chance

*synonym:* fortunate, lucky, serendipitous

(1) **fortuitous** encounters, (2) **fortuitous** timing

Profits were enhanced by a **fortuitous** drop in the cost of raw materials.

## facade

*n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant

*synonym:* front, camouflage, masquerade

(1) the outside **facade** of a castle, (2) **facade** of wealth

A gentle **facade** concealed his powerfulness.

## glean

*v.* to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products

*synonym:* cull, collect, extract

(1) **glean** important information, (2) **glean** the fields

He carefully interviewed the victims and tried to **glean** the details of the culprit.

## riddle

*n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

*synonym:* mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

## inhospitable

*adj.* harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you

*synonym:* sterile, unfriendly, unwelcoming

(1) **inhospitable** environment, (2) in an **inhospitable** manner

He trekked across some of the most **inhospitable** mountains in the world.

## marvel

*n.* someone or something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

*synonym*: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

## ravage

v. to cause damage to something badly

*synonym*: devastate, ruin, destroy

(1) **ravage** a country, (2) **ravage** the brain

A large fire **ravaged** the forest.

## plaza

n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

*synonym*: park, square, center

(1) main **plaza**, (2) memorial **plaza**

Three young men were busking in the shopping **plaza**.

## staircase

n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side

*synonym*: stairway, stairwell

(1) spiral **staircase**, (2) beetle up the **staircase**

She walked urgently down the emergency **staircase**.

## descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

*synonym*: dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator

She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. de ____ d by elevator     | <i>v.</i> to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood                                 |
| 2. M__s exploration          | <i>n.</i> a small reddish planet that revolves around the sun at the fourth position and is periodically visible to the naked eye |
| 3. a pi_____am code          | <i>n.</i> a graphic symbol that conveys its meaning through its pictorial resemblance to a physical object                        |
| 4. b__y in the earth         | <i>v.</i> to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb  |
| 5. for_____us encounters     | <i>adj.</i> not planned; happening by lucky chance  |
| 6. b__y emotion              | <i>v.</i> to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb  |
| 7. pi_____am color           | <i>n.</i> a graphic symbol that conveys its meaning through its pictorial resemblance to a physical object                        |
| 8. ra____e a country         | <i>v.</i> to cause damage to something badly  |
| 9. M__s colonization         | <i>n.</i> a small reddish planet that revolves around the sun at the fourth position and is periodically visible to the naked eye |
| 10. in an inh_____ble manner | <i>adj.</i> harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you                       |

ANSWERS: 1. descend, 2. Mars, 3. pictogram, 4. bury, 5. fortuitous, 6. bury, 7. pictogram, 8. ravage, 9. Mars, 10. inhospitable

11. sub\_\_\_\_\_ean motives for murder      *adj.* under the ground
12. for\_\_\_\_\_us timing      *adj.* not planned; happening by lucky chance
13. a ma\_\_\_l of beauty      *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
14. main pl\_\_a      *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
15. the outside fa\_\_\_e of a castle      *n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
16. inh\_\_\_\_\_ble environment      *adj.* harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you
17. ra\_\_\_e the brain      *v.* to cause damage to something badly
18. ri\_\_\_e me a riddle      *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
19. memorial pl\_\_a      *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
20. gl\_\_\_n important information      *v.* to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products
21. solve the ri\_\_\_e      *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

ANSWERS: 11. subterranean, 12. fortuitous, 13. marvel, 14. plaza, 15. facade, 16. inhospitable, 17. ravage, 18. riddle, 19. plaza, 20. glean, 21. riddle

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 22. beetle up the st_____se | n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side   |
| 23. fa____e of wealth       | n. the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant |
| 24. de____d a steep hill    | v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood   |
| 25. gl____n the fields      | v. to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products               |
| 26. spiral st_____se        | n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side   |
| 27. sub_____ean rooms       | adj. under the ground  |
| 28. technical ma____l       | n. someone or something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise   |

ANSWERS: 22. staircase, 23. facade, 24. descend, 25. glean, 26. staircase, 27. subterranean, 28. marvel

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. A gentle \_\_\_\_\_ concealed his powerfulness.  
*n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
  
2. The space shuttle is a modern engineering \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
  
3. There is plenty of space to \_\_\_\_ everyone.  
*v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
  
4. Three young men were busking in the shopping \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
  
5. He carefully interviewed the victims and tried to \_\_\_\_ the details of the culprit.  
*v.* to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products
  
6. That town installed signs digitally displaying \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce traffic accidents.  
*n.* a graphic symbol that conveys its meaning through its pictorial resemblance to a physical object
  
7. He trekked across some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ mountains in the world.  
*adj.* harsh and difficult to stay in or grow; unfriendly and unwelcoming towards people who visit you

ANSWERS: 1. facade, 2. marvel, 3. bury, 4. plaza, 5. glean, 6. pictograms, 7. inhospitable

8. The ice caps on the poles of \_\_\_\_\_ are permanent.
- n. a small reddish planet that revolves around the sun at the fourth position and is periodically visible to the naked eye
9. Profits were enhanced by a \_\_\_\_\_ drop in the cost of raw materials.  
adj. not planned; happening by lucky chance
10. Such \_\_\_\_\_ passages span kilometers in London.  
adj. under the ground
11. She was \_\_\_\_\_ from an old Italian noble family.  
v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
12. A large fire \_\_\_\_\_ the forest.  
v. to cause damage to something badly
13. She walked urgently down the emergency \_\_\_\_\_.  
n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ remains mysterious to us.  
n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

ANSWERS: 8. Mars, 9. fortuitous, 10. subterranean, 11. descended, 12. ravaged, 13. staircase, 14. riddle