

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Vera Songwe: The African swamp protecting Earth's environment | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/vera\\_songwe\\_the\\_african\\_swamp\\_protecting\\_earth\\_s\\_environment](https://www.ted.com/talks/vera_songwe_the_african_swamp_protecting_earth_s_environment)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### laureate

*n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**

The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.

### swamp

*n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation

*synonym*: marsh, mire, bog

(1) muddy **swamp**, (2) **swamp** tour

The lowland **swamp** was full of dangerous animals and poisonous plants.

### dweller

*n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location

*synonym*: resident, occupant, inhabitant

(1) city **dweller**, (2) rural **dweller**

The mountain **dweller** lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.

## beggar

*n.* a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness

*synonym* : pauper, mendicant, panhandler

(1) homeless **beggar**, (2) give alms to a **beggar**

The **beggar's** rags barely covered his body as he shivered in the cold.

## swampland

*n.* an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult

*synonym* : marshland, bog, fen

(1) **swampland** habitat, (2) tropical **swampland**

The developer had to drain the **swampland** before building the new community.

## livelihood

*n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

*synonym* : occupation, living, income

(1) a means of **livelihood**, (2) **livelihood** assistance

I could no longer earn my own **livelihood**.

## villager

*n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community

*synonym* : resident, inhabitant, countryperson

(1) **villager** community, (2) local **villager**

The rural **villagers** were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.

## deity

*n.* a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture

*synonym* : god, goddess, divine being

(1) existence of a **deity**, (2) **deity** of commerce

The ancient Egyptians believed that the sun **deity** Ra was the most powerful god.

## **misfortune**

*n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble

*synonym*: adversity, calamity, tragedy

(1) economic **misfortune**, (2) a string of **misfortunes**

The flood was a great **misfortune** to the small town causing extensive damage.

## **peatland**

*n.* an area covered with peat (= a partially decayed organic matter formed from plants)

*synonym*: bog, marsh, moor

(1) **peatland** ecosystem, (2) **peatland** bog

The preservation of **peatlands** is crucial in mitigating climate change, as they help regulate the Earth's temperature and reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide.

## **expanse**

*n.* a substance, such as water or oil, that flows freely and is neither a solid nor a gas

*synonym*: stretch, field, spread

(1) vast **expanse**, (2) large **expanses**

She looked over the immense **expanse** of the sea.

## **shrub**

*n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil

*synonym*: bush, hedge, fern

(1) tree and **shrubs**, (2) small **shrub**

These are **shrubs** with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.

## **peat**

*n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world

(1) **peat** reserves, (2) **peat** production

Gardeners often use **peat** as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.

## contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

*synonym*: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

## befall

v. to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way

*synonym*: occur, happen, take place

(1) **befall** tragedy, (2) misfortunes **befall**

I hope nothing bad will **befall** my family during the storm.

## apportion

v. to distribute, divide, or assign something fairly or proportionally, often based on specific criteria or system

*synonym*: allocate, distribute, divide

(1) **apportion** blame, (2) **apportion** resources

We need to **apportion** the funding fairly among all the departments.

## emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

*synonym*: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

## tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

*synonym*: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

## sequester

v. to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.

*synonym* : isolate, set apart, segregate

- (1) **sequester** ten percent of the annual carbon emissions,
- (2) **sequester** myself from the world

He approved their requests to **sequester** the jury.

## stubborn

*adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

*synonym* : persistent, obstinate, determined

- (1) **stubborn** attitude, (2) **stubborn** stains

He was so **stubborn** about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

## decarbonize

*v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy

*synonym* : decoke, decarburise, decarburize

- (1) **decarbonize** their manufacturing process,
- (2) **decarbonize** its energy system

We have to seek methods to **decarbonize** its fossil fuel economy.

## plead

*v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy

*synonym* : beg, implore, supplicate

- (1) **plead** for mercy, (2) **plead** a political cause

He **pleaded** with the authorities to release his son, who had been wrongly accused.

## overlook

*v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

*synonym* : disregard, look down, supervise

- (1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                 |    |  |
|---------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. be___l tragedy               | v. | to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way                           |
| 2. vast ex_____e                | n. | a substance, such as water or oil, that flows freely and is neither a solid nor a gas  |
| 3. economic mis_____ne          | n. | an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble  |
| 4. sw_____nd habitat            | n. | an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult |
| 5. pe_____nd ecosystem          | n. | an area covered with peat (= a partially decayed organic matter formed from plants)  |
| 6. con_____ted leaving school   | v. | to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully   |
| 7. his latest tw__ts            | n. | a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application   |
| 8. de__y of commerce            | n. | a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture   |
| 9. dec_____ze its energy system | v. | to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy                             |

ANSWERS: 1. befall, 2. expanse, 3. misfortune, 4. swampland, 5. peatland, 6. contemplate, 7. tweet, 8. deity, 9. decarbonize

- |                             |           |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| 10. large ex_____es         | <i>n.</i> | a substance, such as water or oil, that flows freely and is neither a solid nor a gas  |
| 11. e__t air pollution      | <i>v.</i> | to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.  |
| 12. tropical sw_____nd      | <i>n.</i> | an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult   |
| 13. ap_____on resources     | <i>v.</i> | to distribute, divide, or assign something fairly or proportionally, often based on specific criteria or system  |
| 14. a string of mis_____nes | <i>n.</i> | an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble  |
| 15. existence of a de__y    | <i>n.</i> | a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture   |
| 16. pe_____nd bog           | <i>n.</i> | an area covered with peat (= a partially decayed organic matter formed from plants)  |
| 17. Oscar la_____te         | <i>n.</i> | a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work |
| 18. muddy sw__p             | <i>n.</i> | an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation   |

ANSWERS: 10. expanse, 11. emit, 12. swampland, 13. apportion, 14. misfortune, 15. deity, 16. peatland, 17. laureate, 18. swamp

19. ov\_\_\_\_ok that fact      *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
20. pl\_\_d for mercy      *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
21. ap\_\_\_\_\_on blame      *v.* to distribute, divide, or assign something fairly or proportionally, often based on specific criteria or system
22. misfortunes be\_\_\_l      *v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
23. p\_\_t reserves      *n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
24. liv\_\_\_\_\_od assistance      *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
25. se\_\_\_\_\_er myself from the world      *v.* to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
26. tree and sh\_\_bs      *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
27. homeless be\_\_\_r      *n.* a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness

ANSWERS: 19. overlook, 20. plead, 21. apportion, 22. befall, 23. peat, 24. livelihood, 25. sequester, 26. shrub, 27. beggar



28. poet la\_\_\_\_te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
29. p\_\_t production *n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
30. local vi\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
31. e\_\_t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
32. ov\_\_\_\_ok a street *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
33. city dw\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
34. a chick's tw\_\_t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
35. con\_\_\_\_te a marriage *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
36. st\_\_\_\_rn attitude *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

ANSWERS: 28. laureate, 29. peat, 30. villager, 31. emit, 32. overlook, 33. dweller, 34. tweet, 35. contemplate, 36. stubborn

37. rural dw\_\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
38. st\_\_\_\_\_rn stains *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
39. pl\_\_d a political cause *v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
40. sw\_\_p tour *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
41. give alms to a be\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness
42. dec\_\_\_\_\_ze their manufacturing process *v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
43. a means of liv\_\_\_\_\_od *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
44. se\_\_\_\_\_er ten percent of the annual carbon emissions *v.* to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
45. vi\_\_\_\_\_er community *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
46. small sh\_\_b *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil

ANSWERS: 37. dweller, 38. stubborn, 39. plead, 40. swamp, 41. beggar, 42. decarbonize, 43. livelihood, 44. sequester, 45. villager, 46. shrub

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I could no longer earn my own \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
  
2. I hope nothing bad will \_\_\_\_\_ my family during the storm.  
*v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
  
3. He approved their requests to \_\_\_\_\_ the jury.  
*v.* to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
  
4. He was so \_\_\_\_\_ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.  
*adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
  
5. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ an opportunity for great success.  
*v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
  
6. Gardeners often use \_\_\_\_\_ as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.  
*n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
  
7. During the unloading, the container box \_\_\_\_\_ a clicking sound.  
*v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. livelihood, 2. befall, 3. sequester, 4. stubborn, 5. overlook, 6. peat, 7. emits

8. We could hear the \_\_\_\_\_ of baby birds.
- n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ with the authorities to release his son, who had been wrongly accused.
- v.* to make a serious and urgent request or appeal, especially for help or mercy
10. The Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
- n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
11. The preservation of \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial in mitigating climate change, as they help regulate the Earth's temperature and reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- n.* an area covered with peat (= a partially decayed organic matter formed from plants)
12. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the funding fairly among all the departments.
- v.* to distribute, divide, or assign something fairly or proportionally, often based on specific criteria or system
13. We have to seek methods to \_\_\_\_\_ its fossil fuel economy.
- v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
14. The ancient Egyptians believed that the sun \_\_\_\_\_ Ra was the most powerful god.
- n.* a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture

ANSWERS: 8. tweet, 9. pleaded, 10. laureate, 11. peatlands, 12. apportion, 13. decarbonize, 14. deity

15. She looked over the immense \_\_\_\_\_ of the sea.
- n.* a substance, such as water or oil, that flows freely and is neither a solid nor a gas
16. The rural \_\_\_\_\_ were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
- n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ rags barely covered his body as he shivered in the cold.
- n.* a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness
18. These are \_\_\_\_\_ with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.
- n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
19. The mountain \_\_\_\_\_ lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.
- n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
20. The flood was a great \_\_\_\_\_ to the small town causing extensive damage.
- n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
21. I recently \_\_\_\_\_ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.
- v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
22. The developer had to drain the \_\_\_\_\_ before building the new community.
- n.* an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult

ANSWERS: 15. expanse, 16. villagers, 17. beggar's, 18. shrubs, 19. dweller, 20. misfortune, 21. contemplated, 22. swampland

23. The lowland \_\_\_\_\_ was full of dangerous animals and poisonous plants.

- n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation

ANSWERS: 23. swamp