

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Kevin Kelly: The future will be shaped by optimists | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin\\_kelly\\_the\\_future\\_will\\_be\\_shaped\\_by\\_optimists](https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_kelly_the_future_will_be_shaped_by_optimists)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

## Session 1: Word List

### endemic

*adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

*synonym*: prevalent, widespread, native

(1) **endemic** disease, (2) cholera- **endemic** area

Malaria is **endemic** in many tropical countries.

### optimism

*n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

*synonym*: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

### inadvertently

*adv.* unintentionally; accidentally; without purpose or deliberate intent

*synonym*: unknowingly, unintentionally, accidentally

(1) **inadvertently** deleted, (2) **inadvertently** omitted

I **inadvertently** left my phone at home this morning and felt lost.

### optimist

*n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

*synonym* : positive thinker, dreamer, idealist

(1) **optimist** by nature, (2) excessive **optimist**

She is a confident **optimist** who always looks on the bright side.

## utopia

*n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity

*synonym* : paradise, heaven, Arcadia

(1) perfect **utopia**, (2) a **utopia** for an engineer

The concept of **utopia** is often viewed as an impossible or unrealistic goal, as it goes beyond what is currently possible.

## protopia

*n.* a state of transition or movement towards an idealized but undefined future state; a positive vision of change and progress that acknowledges that perfection is impossible to achieve

*synonym* : future-hope, utopia, ideal society

(1) **protopia** society, (2) **protopia** concept

Some futurists believe we can create a **protopia** by using technology to improve society and create a better world continually.

## temperament

*n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior

*synonym* : disposition, character, personality

(1) the **temperament** of an engineer, (2) a hysterical **temperament**

She has a calm **temperament** and never gets overly upset or angry.

## delusion

*n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary

*synonym* : hallucination, illusion, fantasy

(1) grand **delusion**, (2) labor under a **delusion**

He had a **delusion** that he was a millionaire.

## transcend

*v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something  
*synonym*: surpass, exceed, overcome

(1) **transcend** boundaries, (2) **transcend** limits

The music **transcended** cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.

## anecdote

*n.* a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

*synonym*: story, account, tale

(1) personal **anecdote**, (2) funny **anecdote**

She entertained the guests with **anecdotes** about her travels and experiences.

## pessimistic

*adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

*synonym*: cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

## smallpox

*n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

*synonym*: variola

(1) **smallpox** epidemic, (2) **smallpox** vaccine

An outbreak of **smallpox** occurred in the 1920s.

## compress

*v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

*synonym*: condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

## coop

*v.* a farm building or enclosure for housing poultry

*synonym*: birdcage, enclosure, cage

(1) fly the **coop**, (2) chicken **coop**

The farmer put a **coop** over the hens.

## unborn

*adj.* not yet born

*synonym* : coming, future

(1) an **unborn** child, (2) **unborn** generations

It is unknown whether this vaccine is effective in an **unborn** baby.

## skyscraper

*n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city

*synonym* : high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

## ancestor

*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

*synonym* : forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

## postpone

*v.* to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date

*synonym* : delay, defer, reschedule

(1) **postpone** meeting, (2) **postpone** event

Due to inclement weather, the game has been **postponed** until next week.

## 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.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym* : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## shun

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

*synonym* : avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

## impede

v. to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress

*synonym* : hinder, obstruct, block

(1) **impede** a close relationship, (2) **impede** development

The traffic jam **impeded** our progress to reach the destination on time.

## conduit

n. a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts

*synonym* : channel, pipeline, tube

(1) water **conduit**, (2) electrical **conduit**

The **conduit** between the two buildings carried water and electricity.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. excessive op\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
3. po\_\_\_\_\_ne meeting *v.* to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date
4. sky\_\_\_\_\_er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
5. a ut\_\_\_\_a for an engineer *n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity
6. cholera-en\_\_\_\_\_c area *adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area
7. sm\_\_\_\_\_ox vaccine *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
8. sense of op\_\_\_\_\_sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
9. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. optimist, 3. postpone, 4. skyscraper, 5. utopia, 6. endemic, 7. smallpox, 8. optimism, 9. opportune

10. ina\_\_\_\_\_tly omitted *adv.* unintentionally; accidentally; without purpose or deliberate intent
11. an un\_\_\_n child *adj.* not yet born
12. di\_\_\_\_\_se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
13. pr\_\_\_\_\_ia concept *n.* a state of transition or movement towards an idealized but undefined future state; a positive vision of change and progress that acknowledges that perfection is impossible to achieve
14. political op\_\_\_\_\_sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
15. co\_\_\_\_\_ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
16. earliest human an\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
17. pes\_\_\_\_\_ic for our survival *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
18. take a pes\_\_\_\_\_ic view of life *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
19. tr\_\_\_\_\_nd boundaries *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
20. tr\_\_\_\_\_nd limits *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something

ANSWERS: 10. inadvertently, 11. unborn, 12. disguise, 13. protopia, 14. optimism, 15. compress, 16. ancestor, 17. pessimistic, 18. pessimistic, 19. transcend, 20. transcend

21. sm\_\_\_\_ox epidemic *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
22. a hysterical tem\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
23. chicken c\_\_p *v.* a farm building or enclosure for housing poultry
24. the tem\_\_\_\_\_nt of an engineer *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
25. personal an\_\_\_\_te *n.* a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
26. ina\_\_\_\_\_tly deleted *adv.* unintentionally; accidentally; without purpose or deliberate intent
27. pr\_\_\_\_ia society *n.* a state of transition or movement towards an idealized but undefined future state; a positive vision of change and progress that acknowledges that perfection is impossible to achieve
28. op\_\_\_\_st by nature *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
29. an\_\_\_\_or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
30. im\_\_\_\_e a close relationship *v.* to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress
31. un\_\_\_\_n generations *adj.* not yet born

ANSWERS: 21. smallpox, 22. temperament, 23. coop, 24. temperament, 25. anecdote, 26. inadvertently, 27. protopia, 28. optimist, 29. ancestor, 30. impede, 31. unborn



32. co\_\_\_\_ss the chest      *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
33. im\_\_\_\_e development      *v.* to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress
34. di\_\_\_\_se my feelings      *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
35. water co\_\_\_\_t      *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
36. perfect ut\_\_\_\_a      *n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity
37. fly the c\_\_p      *v.* a farm building or enclosure for housing poultry
38. grand de\_\_\_\_on      *n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
39. s\_\_n office politics      *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
40. labor under a de\_\_\_\_on      *n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
41. s\_\_n a person      *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
42. en\_\_\_\_c disease      *adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

ANSWERS: 32. compress, 33. impede, 34. disguise, 35. conduit, 36. utopia, 37. coop, 38. delusion, 39. shun, 40. delusion, 41. shun, 42. endemic

43. electrical co\_\_\_\_t *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
44. po\_\_\_\_ne event *v.* to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date
45. steel-framed sky\_\_\_\_er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
46. funny an\_\_\_\_te *n.* a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

ANSWERS: 43. conduit, 44. postpone, 45. skyscraper, 46. anecdote

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ left my phone at home this morning and felt lost.  
*adv.* unintentionally; accidentally; without purpose or deliberate intent
2. There is considerable \_\_\_\_\_ that the economy will recover soon.  
*n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
3. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
4. She was unduly \_\_\_\_\_ about her future.  
*adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
5. She is a confident \_\_\_\_\_ who always looks on the bright side.  
*n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
6. My remote \_\_\_\_\_ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.  
*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
7. Due to inclement weather, the game has been \_\_\_\_\_ until next week.  
*v.* to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date
8. An outbreak of \_\_\_\_\_ occurred in the 1920s.  
*n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

ANSWERS: 1. inadvertently, 2. optimism, 3. opportune, 4. pessimistic, 5. optimist, 6. ancestor, 7. postponed, 8. smallpox

9. He \_\_\_\_\_ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.  
*v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
10. The traffic jam \_\_\_\_\_ our progress to reach the destination on time.  
*v.* to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress
11. 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
12. She entertained the guests with \_\_\_\_\_ about her travels and experiences.  
*n.* a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
13. Some futurists believe we can create a \_\_\_\_\_ by using technology to improve society and create a better world continually.  
*n.* a state of transition or movement towards an idealized but undefined future state; a positive vision of change and progress that acknowledges that perfection is impossible to achieve
14. She \_\_\_\_\_ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.  
*v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
15. She has a calm \_\_\_\_\_ and never gets overly upset or angry.  
*n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
16. The music \_\_\_\_\_ cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.  
*v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something

ANSWERS: 9. shunned, 10. impeded, 11. disguised, 12. anecdotes, 13. protopia, 14. compressed, 15. temperament, 16. transcended

17. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two buildings carried water and electricity.  
*n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
18. Malaria is \_\_\_\_\_ in many tropical countries.  
*adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area
19. The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ is often viewed as an impossible or unrealistic goal, as it goes beyond what is currently possible.  
*n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity
20. The 50-floor \_\_\_\_\_ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.  
*n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
21. It is unknown whether this vaccine is effective in an \_\_\_\_\_ baby.  
*adj.* not yet born
22. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ that he was a millionaire.  
*n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
23. The farmer put a \_\_\_\_\_ over the hens.  
*v.* a farm building or enclosure for housing poultry

ANSWERS: 17. conduit, 18. endemic, 19. utopia, 20. skyscraper, 21. unborn, 22. delusion, 23. coop