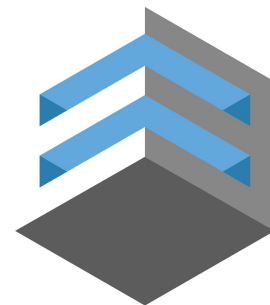


# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Katie McGinty: Smart solutions to decarbonize buildings | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/katie\\_mcginty\\_smart\\_solutions\\_to\\_decarbonize\\_buildings](https://www.ted.com/talks/katie_mcginty_smart_solutions_to_decarbonize_buildings)

### 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

### countdown

*n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

*synonym* : timer

(1) **countdown** clock, (2) wedding **countdown**

The **countdown** to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.

### electrify

*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

*synonym* : wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

### 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.

## incandescent

*adj.* emitting light as a result of being heated; shining brightly; passionate or enthusiastic

*synonym*: glowing, radiant, brilliant

(1) **incandescent** emotion, (2) **incandescent** personality

The **incandescent** lights in the room created a warm and inviting atmosphere.

## ratchet

*n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

*synonym*: gear, wrench, spanner

(1) **ratchet** wrench, (2) **ratchet** effect

He turned the bolt with the **ratchet**, making sure it was secure.

## upfront

*adj.* frank and honest; (adverb) (of payment) in advance

*synonym*: honest, authentic, fair

(1) an **upfront** tone, (2) pay **upfront**

He was very **upfront** with him about his intentions.

## empower

*v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something

*synonym*: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

## piecemeal

*adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit

*synonym*: gradually, incrementally, (adjective) bit by bit

(1) **piecemeal** approach, (2) **piecemeal** changes  
The building was constructed **piecemeal** over several years.

## mortar

*n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

*synonym*: howitzer, cement mixer, masonry tool

(1) **mortar** joints, (2) apply **mortar**

The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh **mortar**.

## agile

*adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled

*synonym*: nimble, quick, flexible

(1) an **agile** mind, (2) **agile** in his movements

The **agile** development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.

## 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.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. wedding co\_\_\_\_\_wn  
*n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
2. pi\_\_\_\_\_al approach  
*adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit
3. el\_\_\_\_\_fy the audience  
*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
4. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. el\_\_\_\_\_fy a manufacturing process  
*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
6. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. pay up\_\_\_\_\_t  
*adj.* frank and honest; (adverb) (of payment) in advance
8. ra\_\_\_\_\_t effect  
*n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

ANSWERS: 1. countdown, 2. piecemeal, 3. electrify, 4. opportune, 5. electrify, 6. opportune, 7. upfront, 8. ratchet

9. pi\_\_\_\_\_al changes *adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit
10. co\_\_\_\_\_wn clock *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
11. 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
12. inc\_\_\_\_\_ent emotion *adj.* emitting light as a result of being heated; shining brightly; passionate or enthusiastic
13. an ag\_\_e mind *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
14. 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
15. em\_\_\_\_\_r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
16. ag\_\_e in his movements *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
17. apply mo\_\_\_\_r *n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

ANSWERS: 9. piecemeal, 10. countdown, 11. decarbonize, 12. incandescent, 13. agile, 14. decarbonize, 15. empower, 16. agile, 17. mortar

18. em\_\_\_\_r the secretary to do the same  
*v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
19. ra\_\_\_\_t wrench  
*n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement
20. inc\_\_\_\_ent personality  
*adj.* emitting light as a result of being heated; shining brightly; passionate or enthusiastic
21. an up\_\_\_\_t tone  
*adj.* frank and honest; (adverb) (of payment) in advance
22. mo\_\_\_\_r joints  
*n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

ANSWERS: 18. empower, 19. ratchet, 20. incandescent, 21. upfront, 22. mortar

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The building was constructed \_\_\_\_\_ over several years.  
*adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.  
*adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
3. The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances
4. The product developed through years of research continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the market.  
*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
5. He was very \_\_\_\_\_ with him about his intentions.  
*adj.* frank and honest; (adverb) (of payment) in advance
6. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. The company \_\_\_\_\_ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.  
*v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something

ANSWERS: 1. piecemeal, 2. agile, 3. mortar, 4. electrify, 5. upfront, 6. opportune, 7. empowered

8. 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
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ lights in the room created a warm and inviting atmosphere.
- adj.* emitting light as a result of being heated; shining brightly; passionate or enthusiastic
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.
- n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
11. He turned the bolt with the \_\_\_\_\_ making sure it was secure.
- n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

ANSWERS: 8. decarbonize, 9. incandescent, 10. countdown, 11. ratchet,