

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Emily Zobel Marshall: The myth of Anansi, the trickster spider | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/emily\\_zobel\\_marshall\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_anansi\\_the\\_trickster\\_spider](https://www.ted.com/talks/emily_zobel_marshall_the_myth_of_anansi_the_trickster_spider)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### 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.

### wink

*v.* to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light

*synonym*: blink, flutter, twinkle

(1) **wink** at abuses, (2) **wink** away my tears

He couldn't help but **wink** at his wife during the boring meeting to make her laugh.

### hoot

*v.* to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound

*synonym*: jeer, taunt

(1) **hoot** the actor off the stage, (2) **hoot** a horn

The audience **hooted** with laughter at the comedian's jokes.

### leopard

*n.* a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia

(1) snow **leopard**, (2) **leopard** print

**Leopards** lurked in the grass to catch their prey.

## hornet

*n.* a large, stinging insect, typically with a yellow and black striped body, that is related to wasps and bees

*synonym*: wasp, yellow jacket, bald-faced hornet

(1) murder **hornet**, (2) a **hornet** nest

We could hear the **hornet's** wings humming before we even saw it.

## scuttle

*v.* to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side

*synonym*: scamper, scurry, flee

(1) **scuttle** out of a room, (2) **scuttle** the treaty

The mice **scuttled** across the kitchen floor in search of food.

## 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.

## prowl

*v.* to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly

*synonym*: creep, sneak, lurch

(1) **prowl** the streets, (2) **prowl** for food

The predator began to **prowl** around the forest's edge, searching for prey.

## scold

*v.* to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily

*synonym*: reprimand, rebuke, chastise

(1) **scold** him for being late, (2) **scold** in a loud voice  
He **scolded** his employees for not meeting their deadlines.

## jab

v. to poke or prod someone or something quickly and forcefully with a pointed object or part of the body; to make a sudden or quick thrusting movement; (noun) the act of administering a vaccination or injection with a needle

*synonym*: poke, prod, thrust

(1) **jab** a finger, (2) booster **jab**

The nurse had to **jab** the patient with a needle to give them the medicine.

## cautiously

*adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger

*synonym*: carefully, warily, prudently

(1) **cautiously** optimistic, (2) proceed **cautiously**

He **cautiously** approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.

## sting

v. to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick

*synonym*: bite, prick, poke

(1) **sting** me on the arm, (2) **sting** his face

Bees **sting** as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.

## swell

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

*synonym*: expand, increase, inflate

(1) **swell** at room temperature, (2) **swell** a population

His arm was **swelling** from the insect bite.

## spat

n. a minor quarrel or dispute, often one that is short-lived or insignificant; a sudden burst of activity or energy; a young oyster, clam, or other bivalves that has recently

attached itself to a surface in its natural habitat

*synonym* : argument, disagreement, oyster

(1) minor **spat**, (2) clean up the **spat**

The **spat** between the two neighbors escalated into a heated argument.

## swarm

*n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

*synonym* : horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

## gourd

*n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments

*synonym* : calabash, squash, pumpkin

(1) **gourd** soup, (2) decorative **gourd**

She carved a unique design into the **gourd** to create a decorative piece for her home.

## elusive

*adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

*synonym* : mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

## mischievous

*adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way

*synonym* : naughty, prankish, impish

(1) **mischievous** grin, (2) **mischievous** sense of humor

The **mischievous** child played pranks on his siblings all day long.

- sap** v. to gradually weaken or drain strength, energy, or resources; to undermine or impair someone's confidence or morale  
*synonym*: weaken, exhaust, drain  
(1) **sap** flow, (2) **sap** strength  
The disease has **sapped** all his energy, and he can barely get out of bed.
- enrage** v. to make someone extremely angry  
*synonym*: anger, incense, infuriate  
(1) **enrage** the international community, (2) **enrage** critics  
The news of the betrayal **enraged** him.
- disrespect** n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something  
*synonym*: impoliteness, rudeness, insult  
(1) mean no **disrespect**, (2) **disrespect** for a customer  
His **disrespectful** behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.
- amaze** v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration  
*synonym*: astound, surprise, stagger  
(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone  
The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.
- 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.
- scatter** v. to cause to separate and go in different directions  
*synonym*: disperse, spread, bestrew  
(1) **scatter** seeds, (2) **scatter** around the internet  
The hunter's approach **scattered** the geese.

## reimagine

v. to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way

*synonym* : re-conceptualize, re-envision, re-create

(1) **reimagine** the future, (2) **reimagine** the possibilities

The company is trying to **reimagine** its business model to stay competitive.

## enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

*synonym* : coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

## cunning

*adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily

*synonym* : sly, crafty, tricky

(1) **cunning** plan, (2) **cunning** thief

The **cunning** fox managed to elude the hunters and escape with his prey.

## resourceful

*adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

*synonym* : inventive, imaginative, clever

(1) **resourceful** thinker, (2) **resourceful** cook in town

She was **resourceful** and found a solution to the problem on her own.

## oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

*synonym* : antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

## testament

n. a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else

*synonym* : proof, testimony, testimonial

(1) give properties by **testament**, (2) **testament** to the superior quality

His wealth is a **testament** to his success.

## storytelling

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

*synonym* : narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. snow le_____d                  | <i>n.</i> a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia   |
| 2. murder ho____t                 | <i>n.</i> a large, stinging insect, typically with a yellow and black striped body, that is related to wasps and bees   |
| 3. sc__d in a loud voice          | <i>v.</i> to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily   |
| 4. op_____s the people with force | <i>v.</i> to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people  |
| 5. h__t the actor off the stage   | <i>v.</i> to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound |
| 6. w__k at abuses                 | <i>v.</i> to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light  |
| 7. de_____d by elevator           | <i>v.</i> to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood   |
| 8. pr__l for food                 | <i>v.</i> to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly   |

ANSWERS: 1. leopard, 2. hornet, 3. scold, 4. oppress, 5. hoot, 6. wink, 7. descend, 8. prowl



9. mis\_\_\_\_\_us grin *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
10. 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
11. res\_\_\_\_\_ul thinker *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
12. am\_\_e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
13. en\_\_\_\_\_e indigenous people *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
14. s\_p flow *v.* to gradually weaken or drain strength, energy, or resources; to undermine or impair someone's confidence or morale
15. booster j\_b *v.* to poke or prod someone or something quickly and forcefully with a pointed object or part of the body; to make a sudden or quick thrusting movement; (noun) the act of administering a vaccination or injection with a needle
16. proceed cau\_\_\_\_\_ly *adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
17. st\_\_g me on the arm *v.* to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick

ANSWERS: 9. mischievous, 10. scoff, 11. resourceful, 12. amaze, 13. enslave, 14. sap, 15. jab, 16. cautiously, 17. sting

18. sc\_\_\_\_r around the internet      *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
19. sw\_\_l a population      *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
20. give properties by te\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
21. j\_b a finger      *v.* to poke or prod someone or something quickly and forcefully with a pointed object or part of the body; to make a sudden or quick thrusting movement; (noun) the act of administering a vaccination or injection with a needle
22. w\_\_k away my tears      *v.* to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light
23. en\_\_\_\_e poor peasants      *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
24. an\_\_\_\_or language      *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
25. minor s\_\_t      *n.* a minor quarrel or dispute, often one that is short-lived or insignificant; a sudden burst of activity or energy; a young oyster, clam, or other bivalves that has recently attached itself to a surface in its natural habitat
26. sto\_\_\_\_ing performance      *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
27. h\_\_t a horn      *v.* to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound

ANSWERS: 18. scatter, 19. swell, 20. testament, 21. jab, 22. wink, 23. enslave, 24. ancestor, 25. spat, 26. storytelling, 27. hoot

28. track down an el\_\_\_\_\_e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
29. sc\_\_d him for being late *v.* to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily
30. go\_\_d soup *n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments
31. cau\_\_\_\_\_ly optimistic *adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
32. re\_\_\_\_\_ne the future *v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
33. st\_\_g his face *v.* to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick
34. earliest human an\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
35. mis\_\_\_\_\_us sense of humor *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
36. pr\_\_l the streets *v.* to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly
37. locust sw\_\_m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 28. elusive, 29. scold, 30. gourd, 31. cautiously, 32. reimagine, 33. sting, 34. ancestor, 35. mischievous, 36. prowl, 37. swarm

38. a sw\_\_m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
39. a ho\_\_\_t nest *n.* a large, stinging insect, typically with a yellow and black striped body, that is related to wasps and bees
40. an el\_\_\_\_\_e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
41. am\_\_e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
42. op\_\_\_\_\_s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
43. dis\_\_\_\_\_ct for a customer *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
44. sc\_\_f at a rumor *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
45. de\_\_\_\_\_d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
46. res\_\_\_\_\_ul cook in town *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
47. clean up the s\_\_t *n.* a minor quarrel or dispute, often one that is short-lived or insignificant; a sudden burst of activity or energy; a young oyster, clam, or other bivalves that has recently attached itself to a surface in its natural habitat

ANSWERS: 38. swarm, 39. hornet, 40. elusive, 41. amaze, 42. oppress, 43. disrespect, 44. scoff, 45. descend, 46. resourceful, 47. spat

48. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing                      *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
49. cu\_\_\_\_\_g thief                                      *adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily
50. sc\_\_\_\_\_e the treaty                              *v.* to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
51. sc\_\_\_\_\_e out of a room                      *v.* to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
52. en\_\_\_e the international community                      *v.* to make someone extremely angry
53. mean no dis\_\_\_\_\_ct                              *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
54. te\_\_\_\_\_nt to the superior quality                      *n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
55. decorative go\_\_d                                      *n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments

ANSWERS: 48. storytelling, 49. cunning, 50. scuttle, 51. scuttle, 52. enrage, 53. disrespect, 54. testament, 55. gourd

56. cu\_\_\_\_g plan *adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily
57. sc\_\_\_\_r seeds *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
58. re\_\_\_\_ne the possibilities *v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
59. en\_\_\_\_e critics *v.* to make someone extremely angry
60. sw\_\_l at room temperature *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
61. s\_p strength *v.* to gradually weaken or drain strength, energy, or resources; to undermine or impair someone's confidence or morale
62. le\_\_\_\_d print *n.* a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia

ANSWERS: 56. cunning, 57. scatter, 58. reimagine, 59. enrage, 60. swell, 61. sap, 62. leopard

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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
  
2. The disease has \_\_\_\_\_ all his energy, and he can barely get out of bed.
  - v. to gradually weaken or drain strength, energy, or resources; to undermine or impair someone's confidence or morale
  
3. She carved a unique design into the \_\_\_\_\_ to create a decorative piece for her home.
  - n. large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments
  
4. Historically, many countries have often \_\_\_\_\_ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.
  - v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ lurked in the grass to catch their prey.
  - n. a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia
  
6. The magician's tricks \_\_\_\_\_ the audience.
  - v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
  
7. Her beauty \_\_\_\_\_ me completely.
  - v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

ANSWERS: 1. scoff, 2. sapped, 3. gourd, 4. oppressed, 5. Leopards, 6. amazed, 7. enslaved

8. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.  
*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
9. His wealth is a \_\_\_\_\_ to his success.  
*n.* a thing that proves the existence or truth of something else
10. The predator began to \_\_\_\_\_ around the forest's edge, searching for prey.  
*v.* to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly
11. The news of the betrayal \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
*v.* to make someone extremely angry
12. The hunter's approach \_\_\_\_\_ the geese.  
*v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
13. Bees \_\_\_\_\_ as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.  
*v.* to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick
14. The audience \_\_\_\_\_ with laughter at the comedian's jokes.  
*v.* to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ fox managed to elude the hunters and escape with his prey.  
*adj.* clever or skillful in achieving a goal, especially deceptively or secretly; shrewd or wily

ANSWERS: 8. storytelling, 9. testament, 10. prowl, 11. enraged, 12. scattered, 13. sting, 14. hooted, 15. cunning



16. The physicist who found the \_\_\_\_\_ particle won the Nobel Prize.  
*adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
17. A \_\_\_\_\_ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.  
*n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
18. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.  
*n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
19. He couldn't help but \_\_\_\_\_ at his wife during the boring meeting to make her laugh.  
*v.* to close one eye briefly as a way of showing agreement, understanding, or flirtation; to emit a flashing light
20. The mice \_\_\_\_\_ across the kitchen floor in search of food.  
*v.* to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two neighbors escalated into a heated argument.  
*n.* a minor quarrel or dispute, often one that is short-lived or insignificant; a sudden burst of activity or energy; a young oyster, clam, or other bivalves that has recently attached itself to a surface in its natural habitat
22. She was \_\_\_\_\_ and found a solution to the problem on her own.  
*adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

ANSWERS: 16. elusive, 17. swarm, 18. disrespectful, 19. wink, 20. scuttled, 21. spat, 22. resourceful

23. We could hear the \_\_\_\_\_ wings humming before we even saw it.  
*n.* a large, stinging insect, typically with a yellow and black striped body, that is related to wasps and bees
24. My remote \_\_\_\_\_ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.  
*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
25. The nurse had to \_\_\_\_ the patient with a needle to give them the medicine.  
*v.* to poke or prod someone or something quickly and forcefully with a pointed object or part of the body; to make a sudden or quick thrusting movement; (noun) the act of administering a vaccination or injection with a needle
26. The company is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ its business model to stay competitive.  
*v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
27. He \_\_\_\_\_ his employees for not meeting their deadlines.  
*v.* to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily
28. 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
29. The \_\_\_\_\_ child played pranks on his siblings all day long.  
*adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
30. He \_\_\_\_\_ approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.  
*adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger

ANSWERS: 23. hornet's, 24. ancestor, 25. jab, 26. reimagine, 27. scolded, 28. descended, 29. mischievous, 30. cautiously

31. His arm was \_\_\_\_\_ from the insect bite.

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

ANSWERS: 31. swelling