

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Virginia Smith: How we could better predict and stop floods | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/virginia\\_smith\\_how\\_we\\_could\\_better\\_predict\\_and\\_stop\\_floods](https://www.ted.com/talks/virginia_smith_how_we_could_better_predict_and_stop_floods)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### chant

*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

*synonym*: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

### powerless

*adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

*synonym*: helpless, impotent, feeble

(1) **powerless** position, (2) **powerless** in the organization

During the hurricane, we felt **powerless** against the winds and rain.

### workaround

*n.* a temporary or unconventional solution to a problem or issue that enables progress or completion of a task despite obstacles or limitations

*synonym*: alternative, temporary fix, quick-fix

(1) **workaround** solution, (2) software **workaround**

When the software crashed, I had to devise a quick **workaround** to save my progress.

## 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.

## stormwater

*n.* water that accumulates during and after rainfall or snowmelt, usually flowing into waterways, sewers, or drainage systems

*synonym* : rainwater, runoff, drainage

(1) **stormwater** management, (2) **stormwater** runoff

The **stormwater** drainage system must be improved to prevent flooding in the neighborhood.

## allay

*v.* to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion

*synonym* : calm, soothe, alleviate

(1) **allay** anxiety, (2) **allay** concerns about declining profits

I tried to **allay** my friend's fears by reassuring her.

## floodplain

*n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding

*synonym* : lowland, swamp, delta

(1) **floodplain** area, (2) **floodplain** management

The town was built on a **floodplain**, making it vulnerable to natural disasters.

## sanction

*n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

*synonym* : approve, authorize, endorse

(1) Imperial **sanction**, (2) popular **sanction**

The government imposed economic **sanctions** on the country.

## elevate

*v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

*synonym*: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

## upheaval

*n.* great change, disruption, or disturbance; (geology) a rise of land to a higher elevation

*synonym*: disturbance, turmoil, upheaval

(1) **upheaval** of society, (2) the big **upheaval** of my life

The recent political **upheaval** has left the country in a state of chaos.

## commute

*v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

*synonym*: travel, journey, trip

(1) **commute** to work, (2) daily **commute**

He had to **commute** two hours each way to get to work.

## resilient

*adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

*synonym*: robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

## capita

*n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

*synonym*: head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**  
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

## Newtonian

*adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

*synonym* : classical, physics, mechanics

(1) **Newtonian** physics, (2) **Newtonian** mechanics

The motion of planets can be described using **Newtonian** mechanics.

## astronaut

*n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

*synonym* : spaceman, cosmonaut

(1) **astronaut** mission, (2) **astronaut** in training

The shuttle **astronaut** trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

## rev

*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym* : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

## illuminate

*v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

*synonym* : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding

That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

## infiltrate

*v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

*synonym* : penetrate, sneak in, invade

(1) **infiltrate** the bloodstream, (2) **infiltrate** a community

The spy was able to **infiltrate** the enemy's headquarters

undetected.

## evaporation

*n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources

*synonym*: vaporization, dehydration, desiccation

(1) **evaporation** cooling, (2) slow **evaporation**

The formation of clouds is facilitated by the process of **evaporation** and condensation

## transpire

*v.* to happen or be revealed

*synonym*: occur, happen, take place

(1) **transpire** as expected, (2) **transpire** in the news

It finally **transpired** that an employee had stolen the missing money.

## offend

*v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

*synonym*: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

## well-being

*n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

*synonym*: health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**

We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

## assuage

*v.* to make an unpleasant feeling, such as pain or distress, less intense; to satisfy or ease a desire or appetite

*synonym*: ease, alleviate, relieve

(1) **assuage** anger, (2) **assuage** guilt

The medicine helped **assuage** her pain and discomfort.

## obtrusive

*adj.* noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way; interfering with or obstructing something

*synonym*: prominent, conspicuous, intrusive

(1) change **obtrusive** behavior, (2) **obtrusive** noise  
The **obtrusive** advertisement kept popping up and interrupting my work.

### **obtainable**

*adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached;  
accessible

*synonym*: attainable, achievable, reachable

(1) **obtainable** resources, (2) **obtainable** solutions  
The information on their website could have been clearer, but I found an **obtainable** answer eventually.

### **innovate**

*v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

*synonym*: bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                  |      |   |
|----------------------------------|------|---|
| 1. inf_____te a community        | v.   | to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly             |
| 2. as_____e guilt                | v.   | to make an unpleasant feeling, such as pain or distress, less intense; to satisfy or ease a desire or appetite  |
| 3. eva_____on cooling            | n.   | the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources |
| 4. obt_____le solutions          | adj. | capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible   |
| 5. ob_____ve noise               | adj. | noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way; interfering with or obstructing something   |
| 6. ill_____te a dark hall        | v.   | to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity   |
| 7. el_____e a close relationship | v.   | to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position   |
| 8. Ne_____an mechanics           | adj. | relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation  |
| 9. up_____al of society          | n.   | great change, disruption, or disturbance; (geology) a rise of land to a higher elevation  |

ANSWERS: 1. infiltrate, 2. assuage, 3. evaporation, 4. obtainable, 5. obtrusive, 6. illuminate, 7. elevate, 8. Newtonian, 9. upheaval

10. change ob\_\_\_\_\_ve behavior *adj.* noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way; interfering with or obstructing something
11. po\_\_\_\_\_ss in the organization *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
12. al\_\_y concerns about declining profits *v.* to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion
13. inf\_\_\_\_\_te the bloodstream *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
14. co\_\_\_\_\_e to work *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
15. al\_\_y anxiety *v.* to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion
16. as\_\_\_\_\_e anger *v.* to make an unpleasant feeling, such as pain or distress, less intense; to satisfy or ease a desire or appetite
17. tr\_\_\_\_\_re as expected *v.* to happen or be revealed
18. obt\_\_\_\_\_le resources *adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible
19. r\_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 10. obtrusive, 11. powerless, 12. allay, 13. infiltrate, 14. commute, 15. allay, 16. assuage, 17. transpire, 18. obtainable, 19. rev



20. a sense of wel\_\_\_\_\_ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
21. po\_\_\_\_\_ss position *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
22. per ca\_\_\_a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
23. el\_\_\_\_\_e educational standards *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
24. tr\_\_\_\_\_re in the news *v.* to happen or be revealed
25. of\_\_\_d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
26. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
27. flo\_\_\_\_\_in area *n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
28. the wel\_\_\_\_\_ng of a nation *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
29. of\_\_\_d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
30. popular sa\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

ANSWERS: 20. well-being, 21. powerless, 22. capita, 23. elevate, 24. transpire, 25. offend, 26. opportune, 27. floodplain, 28. well-being, 29. offend, 30. sanction

31. wor\_\_\_\_\_nd solution *n.* a temporary or unconventional solution to a problem or issue that enables progress or completion of a task despite obstacles or limitations
32. slow eva\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources
33. the big up\_\_\_\_\_al of my life *n.* great change, disruption, or disturbance; (geology) a rise of land to a higher elevation
34. sto\_\_\_\_\_er management *n.* water that accumulates during and after rainfall or snowmelt, usually flowing into waterways, sewers, or drainage systems
35. as\_\_\_\_\_ut mission *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
36. the agricultural yield per ca\_\_\_\_a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
37. ill\_\_\_\_\_te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
38. daily co\_\_\_\_\_e *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

ANSWERS: 31. workaround, 32. evaporation, 33. upheaval, 34. stormwater, 35. astronaut, 36. capita, 37. illuminate, 38. commute

39. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. as\_\_\_\_\_ut in training *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
41. Imperial sa\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
42. Ne\_\_\_\_\_an physics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
43. re\_\_\_\_\_nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
44. low-r\_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
45. in\_\_\_\_\_te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
46. ch\_\_t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
47. sto\_\_\_\_\_er runoff *n.* water that accumulates during and after rainfall or snowmelt, usually flowing into waterways, sewers, or drainage systems

ANSWERS: 39. opportune, 40. astronaut, 41. sanction, 42. Newtonian, 43. resilient, 44. rev, 45. innovate, 46. chant, 47. stormwater

48. ch\_\_t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
49. a hard and re\_\_\_\_\_nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
50. in\_\_\_\_\_te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
51. software wor\_\_\_\_\_nd *n.* a temporary or unconventional solution to a problem or issue that enables progress or completion of a task despite obstacles or limitations
52. flo\_\_\_\_\_in management *n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding

ANSWERS: 48. chant, 49. resilient, 50. innovate, 51. workaround, 52. floodplain

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The soccer game crowd broke into a \_\_\_\_\_ of "Go, team, go!"  
*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
2. The motion of planets can be described using \_\_\_\_\_ mechanics.  
*adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
3. The town was built on a \_\_\_\_\_ making it vulnerable to natural disasters.  
*n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
4. During the hurricane, we felt \_\_\_\_\_ against the winds and rain.  
*adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ drainage system must be improved to prevent flooding in the neighborhood.  
*n.* water that accumulates during and after rainfall or snowmelt, usually flowing into waterways, sewers, or drainage systems
6. We are responsible for the care and \_\_\_\_\_ of all our employees.  
*n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
7. When the software crashed, I had to devise a quick \_\_\_\_\_ to save my progress.  
*n.* a temporary or unconventional solution to a problem or issue that enables progress or completion of a task despite obstacles or limitations

ANSWERS: 1. chant, 2. Newtonian, 3. floodplain, 4. powerless, 5. stormwater, 6. well-being, 7. workaround

8. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.

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

9. Eating food in a hurry \_\_\_\_\_ blood glucose levels.

*v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

10. It finally \_\_\_\_\_ that an employee had stolen the missing money.

*v.* to happen or be revealed

11. The formation of clouds is facilitated by the process of \_\_\_\_\_ and condensation

*n.* the process of a liquid changing into a gas or vapor, often as a result of high temperatures or reduced pressure; the gradual disappearance or dissipation of something, such as money or resources

12. GDP per \_\_\_\_\_ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

*n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

13. The information on their website could have been clearer, but I found an \_\_\_\_\_ answer eventually.

*adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible

14. The recent political \_\_\_\_\_ has left the country in a state of chaos.

*n.* great change, disruption, or disturbance; (geology) a rise of land to a higher elevation

15. The shuttle \_\_\_\_\_ trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

*n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

ANSWERS: 8. opportune, 9. elevates, 10. transpired, 11. evaporation, 12. capita, 13. obtainable, 14. upheaval, 15. astronaut

16. The spy was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy's headquarters undetected.

- v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

17. He had to \_\_\_\_\_ two hours each way to get to work.

- v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

18. The government imposed economic \_\_\_\_\_ on the country.

- n. official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

19. The \_\_\_\_\_ advertisement kept popping up and interrupting my work.

- adj. noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way; interfering with or obstructing something

20. The medicine helped \_\_\_\_\_ her pain and discomfort.

- v. to make an unpleasant feeling, such as pain or distress, less intense; to satisfy or ease a desire or appetite

21. I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ my friend's fears by reassuring her.

- v. to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion

22. His rude comments \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the party.

- v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

ANSWERS: 16. infiltrate, 17. commute, 18. sanctions, 19. obtrusive, 20. assuage, 21. allay, 22. offended

23. That biologist \_\_\_\_\_ the mechanism of heredity.
- v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
24. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently \_\_\_\_\_ the emerging technologies.
- v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
25. She is a \_\_\_\_\_ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
- adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
26. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 23. illuminated, 24. innovate, 25. resilient, 26. rev