# **Englist.me**

## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: Blood, concrete, and dynamite:

Building the Hoover Dam | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\_gendler\_blood\_concr

ete\_and\_dynamite\_building\_the\_hoover\_dam



## **Advanced Words Only**

#### **IMPORTANT**

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## **Session 1: Word List**

#### canyon

 a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

synonym: gorge, valley, ravine

(1) twisty **canyon** road, (2) **canyon** of skyscrapers

The Grand Canyon has an awe-inspiring sight.

#### repel

- v. to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
- synonym: turn away, fight off, force back
- (1) repel bandits, (2) repel bad luck

This material can **repel** moisture swiftly.

#### stumble

- v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily synonym: bumble, struggle, misstep
- (1) stumble financially, (2) stumble through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

#### plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have plummeted in the last hour, causing

concern for investors.

#### savior

 a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

synonym: hero, rescuer, redeemer

(1) political **savior**, (2) pray to the **savior** 

The guru of that religion thought of himself as a savior.

#### arid

 adj. lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality

synonym: dry, parched, barren

(1) arid terrain, (2) semi- arid zone

The desert is known for its **arid** climate and lack of rainfall.

#### divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) divert attention, (2) divert an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

#### erratic

 adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

synonym: unpredictable, irregular, unstable

(1) erratic behavior, (2) erratic movements

The stock market has been behaving in an **erratic** manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.

## unreliable

adj. not able to be trusted or depended onsynonym: inconsistent, erratic, undependable

(1) prove **unreliable**, (2) **unreliable** source of information By incorrect assumption, statistics can be notoriously

#### unreliable.

#### industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

#### reclamation

n. the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away

synonym: recovery, reutilization, restoration

(1) **reclamation** district, (2) coastal **reclamation**The **reclamation** of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.

#### **swoop**

 to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon

synonym: dart, pounce

(1) **swoop** down the water slide, (2) **swoop** up the escalator The eagle **swooped** down from the sky to catch its prey.

## hydroelectric

adj. relating to the generation of electricity from water power, usually by using turbines or generators powered by falling or flowing water; utilizing the energy of water to generate electricity

synonym: water-powered, turbine, dam-generated

hydroelectric stations, (2) hydroelectric dam
 The town decided to convert its power source to hydroelectric energy.

#### determinant

 a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

*synonym*: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

#### gorge

 a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it

*synonym*: canyon, gully, ravine

(1) cast the **gorge**, (2) the **gorges** of the Yangtse River We must pass through the narrow **gorge** with a stream running through it.

## oncoming

adj. approaching or moving toward a particular person or place; relating to something that is coming toward the observer

*synonym*: approaching, incoming, imminent

(1) oncoming traffic, (2) oncoming disaster

The driver had to swerve to avoid an **oncoming** car that veered into his lane.

#### makeshift

adj. serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvisedsynonym: improvised, temporary, ad-hoc

(1) **makeshift** shelter, (2) a **makeshift** solution

The team set up a **makeshift** tent for shelter during the storm.

## encampment

 a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes

synonym: campsite, bivouac, settlement

(1) military **encampment**, (2) temporary **encampment**The **encampment** of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.

#### heatstroke

 a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, which symptoms include high body temperature, rapid

heartbeat, and confusion or loss of consciousness synonym: heat exhaustion, hyperthermia, sunstroke

(1) **heatstroke** symptoms, (2) **heatstroke** prevention

The hiker experienced a severe **heatstroke** after hiking in the desert for several hours without enough water.

#### boulder

a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn n. away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym: rock, stone, clump

(1) boulder field, (2) lava boulder

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

#### reroute

to redirect or change the course or direction of something

synonym: redirect, divert, detour

(1) **reroute** traffic, (2) **reroute** path

Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to **reroute** to avoid the congested roads.

## grueling

adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

synonym: exhausting, draining, demanding

(1) grueling process, (2) a grueling campaign

The marathon was a **grueling** test of endurance.

#### succumb

to fail to oppose something, such as desire, pressure, or ν. some other opposing force; to die or suffer badly from the effect of a disease or injury

synonym: surrender, break down, die

- (1) **succumb** to cancer, (2) **succumb** to old age
- He finally **succumbed** to temptation.

#### scorch

to burn the surface of something, usually accidentally, with a hot iron or flame

synonym: char, burn, singe

# (1) **scorch** your clothes, (2) careful not to **scorch**The sun **scorched** the desert, making it uninhabitable.

#### foreman

 a person in charge of a group of workers, typically in a factory, construction site, or other industrial settings; a juror who presides over jury deliberations and speaks for the group in court

synonym: supervisor, manager, overseer

(1) foreman position, (2) foreman duties

The **foreman** on the construction site is responsible for overseeing the workers and ensuring that the project is completed on time.

#### descend

rubble

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.
- n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym: debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

## jackhammer

 a powerful mechanical tool used to break up pavement, concrete, or other hard materials, typically used in construction or demolition projects

synonym: pneumatic hammer, hammer drill

(1) handheld **jackhammer**, (2) loud **jackhammer** noise The operator of the **jackhammer** wears noise-canceling headphones to protect their ears.

## dynamite

*n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes

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strong, sudden reactions or changes synonym: explosives, blasting powder, TNT

(1) **dynamite-powered** engine, (2) **dynamite** fishing The sound of the **dynamite** explosion could be heard for miles.

#### acrobatic

 adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful

synonym: nimble, agile, flexible

(1) acrobatic leaps, (2) acrobatic skills

The **acrobatic** performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.

## defy

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

*synonym*: challenge, resist, disobey

(1) **defy** gravity, (2) **defy** authority

She tried to **defy** her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

## glamorous

adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people

synonym: alluring, bewitching, enchanting

(1) **glamorous** movie stars, (2) cast **glamorous** eyes The south coast is less **glamorous** yet has many clean and appealing hotels.

pave

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym: surface, coat, cover

(1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.

## interlocking

adj. fitting or locking together in a way that makes a continuous and secure whole

synonym: connected, linked, joined

(1) interlocking braid, (2) interlocking mechanism

The **interlocking** puzzle pieces were difficult to separate.

#### human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) human-made climate change, (2) the worst

human-made disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

#### devastate

- v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage synonym: demolish, destroy, crush
- (1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

## 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.

#### monumental

adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

synonym: massive, awesome, enormous

(1) **monumental** task, (2) **monumental** sculpture Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's **monumental** contributions to physics.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1. lava bo\_\_\_\_r

2. re\_\_\_e traffic

3. a ma\_\_\_\_ft solution

4. on\_\_\_\_ng disaster

5. a gr\_\_\_ng campaign

6. bo\_\_\_\_r field

7. hea ke prevention

8. d y authority

9. p e a new path

 a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

 to redirect or change the course or direction of something

adj. serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised

adj. approaching or moving toward a particular person or place; relating to something that is coming toward the observer

 adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

 a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

 a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, which symptoms include high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, and confusion or loss of consciousness

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

ANSWERS: 1. boulder, 2. reroute, 3. makeshift, 4. oncoming, 5. grueling, 6. boulder, 7. heatstroke, 8. defy, 9. pave

ANSWERS: 18. makeshift, 19. oncoming, 20. devastate, 21. foreman, 22. interlocking, 23. jackhammer, 24. scorch, 25. stumble, 26. monumental, 27. arid

27. a d terrain

adj. lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and

barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality

ANSWERS: 28. defy, 29. monumental, 30. repel, 31. dynamite, 32. unreliable, 33. interlocking, 34. determinant, 35. industrious, 36. gorge, 37. erratic, 38. encampment

ANSWERS: 39. succumb, 40. savior, 41. repel, 42. reclamation, 43. industrious, 44. canyon, 45. hydroelectric, 46. glamorous, 47. devastate

ANSWERS: 55. reroute, 56. heatstroke, 57. pave, 58. stumble, 59. glamorous, 60. human-made, 61. divert, 62. descend, 63. acrobatic

ANSWERS: 64. foreman, 65. unreliable, 66. dynamite, 67. arid, 68. rubble, 69. human-made, 70. acrobatic, 71. canyon

72. temporary encnt	n.	a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
73. grng process	adj.	extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
74. swp down the water slide	ν.	to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
75. plting sales	v.	to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
76. ded a steep hill	ν.	to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

ANSWERS: 72. encampment, 73. grueling, 74. swoop, 75. plummet, 76. descend

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to to avoid the congested roads.
<i>v</i> .	to redirect or change the course or direction of something
2.	Due to the road construction, we had to our course to get to the restaurant.
ν.	to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
3.	The Grand has an awe-inspiring sight.
n.	a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
4.	The puzzle pieces were difficult to separate.
adj	i. fitting or locking together in a way that makes a continuous and secure whole
5.	He was known to be very and would often work late into the night.
adj	hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
6.	The eagle down from the sky to catch its prey.
v.	to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
7.	The on the construction site is responsible for overseeing the workers and ensuring that the project is completed on time.
n.	a person in charge of a group of workers, typically in a factory, construction site, or other industrial settings; a juror who presides over jury deliberations and speaks for the group in court
	SWERS: 1. reroute, 2. divert, 3. Canyon, 4. interlocking, 5. industrious, 6. coped, 7. foreman

ANSWERS: 8. electrify, 9. unreliable, 10. rubble, 11. repel, 12. boulder, 13. paved, 14. encampment, 15. erratic

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Alex Gendler: Blood, concrete, and dynamite: Building the Hoover Dam   TED Talk" (38 words)		
32. The bridge is a structure and was built to span the river.  adj. created or produced by humans; artificial		
33. One of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.		
<ul> <li>a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result</li> </ul>		
34. The south coast is less yet has many clean and appealing hotels.		
adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people		
35. We must pass through the narrow with a stream running through it.		
<ul> <li>a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it</li> </ul>		
36. The guru of that religion thought of himself as a		
<ul> <li>a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus</li> <li>Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth</li> </ul>		
37. The performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.		
adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful		
38. The sound of the explosion could be heard for miles.		
<ul> <li>a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes</li> </ul>		
ANSWERS: 32. human-made, 33. determinant, 34. glamorous, 35. gorge, 36. savior, 37. acrobatic, 38. dynamite		