

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Ilan Stavans: The twins who tricked the Maya gods of death | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ilan\\_stavans\\_the\\_twins\\_who\\_tricked\\_the\\_maya\\_gods\\_of\\_death](https://www.ted.com/talks/ilan_stavans_the_twins_who_tricked_the_maya_gods_of_death)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### disturb

*v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

*synonym*: agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

### underworld

*n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

*synonym*: hell, netherworld, underworld

(1) god of the **underworld**, (2) criminal **underworld**

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the **underworld**, where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

### sprout

*v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly

*synonym*: germinate, grow, bud

(1) **sprout** seeds, (2) **sprout** wings

The flowers in the garden began to **sprout** after the first rain of the season.

## 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.

## impregnate

*v.* to make a woman or female animal pregnant; to infuse or fill something completely

*synonym*: fertilize, inseminate, make pregnant

(1) **impregnate** a woman, (2) **impregnate** with a medicinal substance

The sperm **impregnated** the egg, and fertilization occurred.

## wrath

*n.* extreme anger

*synonym*: fury, irritation, anger

(1) **wrath** of God, (2) a high person's **wrath**

He finally exploded with **wrath** due to the team's repeated failures.

## ballgame

*n.* a game played with a ball, typically involving two opposing teams competing to score points or goals; any challenging or competitive situation or activity

*synonym*: match, game, contest

(1) join a **ballgame**, (2) baseball **ballgame**

The umpire made a controversial call that affected the outcome of the **ballgame**.

## cavern

*n.* a large, natural underground space

*synonym*: grotto, cave, cavity

(1) a yawning **cavern**, (2) **cavern** tour

The explorer discovered a large **cavern** deep underground.

## scorpion

*n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a

venomous sting

*synonym* : arachnid, stinger

(1) **scorpion** fish, (2) poisonous **scorpion**

The **scorpion's** venom can be lethal to humans.

**confuse**

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym* : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

**mosquito**

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

*synonym* : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

**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.

**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**.

**torch**

n. a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle

*synonym* : flashlight, lantern, flare

(1) the **torch** of learning, (2) **torch** song

She used an electric **torch** to light her way through the dark cave.

## unburnt

*adj.* not burned or scorched; not consumed by fire; of or relating to materials or substances that are resistant to fire or heat

*synonym* : uncharred, intact, undamaged

(1) **unburnt** fuel, (2) **unburnt** wood

The **unburnt** candles on the birthday cake represented another year of life for the celebrant.

## adorn

*v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful

*synonym* : decorate, beautify, embellish

(1) **adorn** a bride, (2) **adorn** the table with flowers

The architect **adorned** the interior with great artworks and frescoes.

## macaw

*n.* a large, colorful parrot with a long tail found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, known for its striking plumage and its ability to mimic human speech and sounds

*synonym* : parrot, bird, avian

(1) rare **macaw** species, (2) red-bellied **macaw**

The **macaw's** colorful feathers brightened up the otherwise drab jungle.

## firefly

*n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark

(1) the glow of a **firefly**, (2) sparkle like **firefly**

In that country, there is a culture of eating live **firefly** squid.

## supernatural

*adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

*synonym* : paranormal, otherworldly, preternatural

(1) **supernatural** beings, (2) **supernatural** intuition  
The **supernatural** powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

## squash

v. to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully  
*synonym*: smash, crush, compress

(1) **squash** a package, (2) **squash** a rebellion  
I like to **squash** my grapes when making homemade wine.

## carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply  
*synonym*: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate  
This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

## shatter

v. to break suddenly into many pieces  
*synonym*: break, crash, destroy

(1) **shatter** the plate, (2) **shatter** a world record  
Her husband's death **shattered** her life entirely.

## treacherous

*adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe  
*synonym*: dangerous, unfaithful, disloyal

(1) **treacherous** territory, (2) **treacherous** act  
Due to snow and ice, many roads have become **treacherous**, and motorists are advised to travel gently.

## enlist

v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization  
*synonym*: join, sign up, appoint

(1) **enlist** in a cause, (2) **enlist** for a soldier  
He decided to **enlist** in the military after graduating from high school.

## seer

*n.* someone who is believed to have the power of prophecy or foretelling the future; a prophet or fortune-teller

*synonym*: prophet, oracle, visionary

(1) **seer** stone, (2) famous **seer**

The wise old **seer** instructed the young prince to rule his kingdom.

## 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.

## disheveled

*adj.* in a state of disorder or disarray, often related to one's appearance, such as messy or untidy hair, clothing, or personal hygiene

*synonym*: messy, tousled, unkempt

(1) **disheveled** hair, (2) **disheveled** appearance

The hotel room was in **disheveled** condition after the wild party last night.

## pretended

*adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated

*synonym*: feigned, assumed, simulated

(1) **pretended** illness, (2) make a **pretended** purchase

His **pretended** interest soon caught everyone's attention.

## resurrect

*v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again

*synonym*: revive, bring back, bring to life

(1) **resurrect** the dead, (2) **resurrect** an argument

They tried to **resurrect** the ancient tradition.

## oblige

*v.* to force or require someone to do something through legal, social, or moral obligations; to voluntarily do something to help or please someone; to be indebted or grateful to someone

*synonym*: compel, require, force

(1) **oblige** him to reject, (2) **oblige** a request  
As a citizen, we must **oblige** to the laws of the land.

## henceforth

*adv.* starting from this time; from now on

*synonym*: hereafter, henceforward, subsequently

(1) abstain from wine **henceforth**, (2) promise never to lie  
**henceforth**

This city will be **henceforth** recognized as the capital.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. sq\_\_\_h a package *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully
2. di\_\_\_\_\_b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
3. the glow of a fi\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark
4. 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
5. criminal und\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
6. a yawning ca\_\_\_n *n.* a large, natural underground space
7. to\_\_h song *n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
8. un\_\_\_\_\_t fuel *adj.* not burned or scorched; not consumed by fire; of or relating to materials or substances that are resistant to fire or heat
9. di\_\_\_\_\_b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
10. sq\_\_\_h a rebellion *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

ANSWERS: 1. squash, 2. disturb, 3. firefly, 4. sting, 5. underworld, 6. cavern, 7. torch, 8. unburnt, 9. disturb, 10. squash



11. mo\_\_\_\_\_to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
12. 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
13. abstain from wine hen\_\_\_\_\_th *adv.* starting from this time; from now on
14. sh\_\_\_\_\_r a world record *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
15. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
16. 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
17. ob\_\_\_e him to reject *v.* to force or require someone to do something through legal, social, or moral obligations; to voluntarily do something to help or please someone; to be indebted or grateful to someone
18. 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
19. 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

ANSWERS: 11. mosquito, 12. sting, 13. henceforth, 14. shatter, 15. confuse, 16. rev, 17. oblige, 18. rev, 19. spat

20. promise never to lie henceforth *adv.* starting from this time; from now on
21. confuse the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
22. sparkle like firefly *n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark
23. famous seer *n.* someone who is believed to have the power of prophecy or foretelling the future; a prophet or fortune-teller
24. resurrect an argument *v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again
25. disheveled appearance *adj.* in a state of disorder or disarray, often related to one's appearance, such as messy or untidy hair, clothing, or personal hygiene
26. sprout seeds *v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly
27. god of the underworld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
28. supernatural beings *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
29. clean up the 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

ANSWERS: 20. henceforth, 21. confuse, 22. firefly, 23. seer, 24. resurrect, 25. disheveled, 26. sprout, 27. underworld, 28. supernatural, 29. spat

30. s\_\_r stone *n.* someone who is believed to have the power of prophecy or foretelling the future; a prophet or fortune-teller
31. tre\_\_\_\_\_us act *adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe
32. red-bellied ma\_\_w *n.* a large, colorful parrot with a long tail found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, known for its striking plumage and its ability to mimic human speech and sounds
33. pr\_\_\_\_\_ed illness *adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
34. ca\_\_e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
35. baseball ba\_\_\_\_\_me *n.* a game played with a ball, typically involving two opposing teams competing to score points or goals; any challenging or competitive situation or activity
36. poisonous sc\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
37. re\_\_\_\_\_ct the dead *v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again
38. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed hair *adj.* in a state of disorder or disarray, often related to one's appearance, such as messy or untidy hair, clothing, or personal hygiene

ANSWERS: 30. seer, 31. treacherous, 32. macaw, 33. pretended, 34. carve, 35. ballgame, 36. scorpion, 37. resurrect, 38. disheveled

39. sc\_\_\_\_\_on fish *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
40. un\_\_\_\_\_t wood *adj.* not burned or scorched; not consumed by fire; of or relating to materials or substances that are resistant to fire or heat
41. en\_\_\_\_t in a cause *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
42. di\_\_\_\_\_se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
43. ca\_\_e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
44. ad\_\_n a bride *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
45. imp\_\_\_\_\_te with a medicinal substance *v.* to make a woman or female animal pregnant; to infuse or fill something completely
46. ca\_\_\_\_n tour *n.* a large, natural underground space
47. sh\_\_\_\_\_r the plate *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
48. a high person's wr\_\_h *n.* extreme anger
49. en\_\_\_\_t for a soldier *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
50. make a pr\_\_\_\_\_ed purchase *adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
51. di\_\_\_\_\_se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

ANSWERS: 39. scorpion, 40. unburnt, 41. enlist, 42. disguise, 43. carve, 44. adorn, 45. impregnate, 46. cavern, 47. shatter, 48. wrath, 49. enlist, 50. pretended, 51. disguise

52. rare ma\_\_w species *n.* a large, colorful parrot with a long tail found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, known for its striking plumage and its ability to mimic human speech and sounds
53. imp\_\_\_\_\_te a woman *v.* to make a woman or female animal pregnant; to infuse or fill something completely
54. ob\_\_\_e a request *v.* to force or require someone to do something through legal, social, or moral obligations; to voluntarily do something to help or please someone; to be indebted or grateful to someone
55. sp\_\_\_t wings *v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly
56. tre\_\_\_\_\_us territory *adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe
57. mo\_\_\_\_\_to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
58. wr\_\_h of God *n.* extreme anger
59. ad\_\_n the table with flowers *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
60. join a ba\_\_\_\_\_me *n.* a game played with a ball, typically involving two opposing teams competing to score points or goals; any challenging or competitive situation or activity

ANSWERS: 52. macaw, 53. impregnate, 54. oblige, 55. sprout, 56. treacherous, 57. mosquito, 58. wrath, 59. adorn, 60. ballgame

61. the to\_\_h of learning

*n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle

62. sup\_\_\_\_\_ral intuition

*adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

ANSWERS: 61. torch, 62. supernatural

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The wise old \_\_\_\_\_ instructed the young prince to rule his kingdom.  
*n.* someone who is believed to have the power of prophecy or foretelling the future; a prophet or fortune-teller
2. I like to \_\_\_\_\_ my grapes when making homemade wine.  
*v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully
3. This city will be \_\_\_\_\_ recognized as the capital.  
*adv.* starting from this time; from now on
4. 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
5. She used an electric \_\_\_\_\_ to light her way through the dark cave.  
*n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
6. His \_\_\_\_\_ interest soon caught everyone's attention.  
*adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
7. The hotel room was in \_\_\_\_\_ condition after the wild party last night.  
*adj.* in a state of disorder or disarray, often related to one's appearance, such as messy or untidy hair, clothing, or personal hygiene
8. The flowers in the garden began to \_\_\_\_\_ after the first rain of the season.  
*v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly

ANSWERS: 1. seer, 2. squash, 3. henceforth, 4. disguised, 5. torch, 6. pretended, 7. disheveled, 8. sprout

9. 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
10. In that country, there is a culture of eating live \_\_\_\_\_ squid.
- n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark
11. The explorer discovered a large \_\_\_\_\_ deep underground.
- n.* a large, natural underground space
12. The architect \_\_\_\_\_ the interior with great artworks and frescoes.
- v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
13. They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the ancient tradition.
- v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.
- adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
15. The umpire made a controversial call that affected the outcome of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a game played with a ball, typically involving two opposing teams competing to score points or goals; any challenging or competitive situation or activity
16. As a citizen, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to the laws of the land.
- v.* to force or require someone to do something through legal, social, or moral obligations; to voluntarily do something to help or please someone; to be indebted or grateful to someone

ANSWERS: 9. sting, 10. firefly, 11. cavern, 12. adorned, 13. resurrect, 14. supernatural, 15. ballgame, 16. oblige



17. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the \_\_\_\_\_ where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.
- n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
18. Tourists frequently \_\_\_\_\_ the island's delicate natural balance.
- v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
19. He decided to \_\_\_\_\_ in the military after graduating from high school.
- v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
20. Her husband's death \_\_\_\_\_ her life entirely.
- v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ candles on the birthday cake represented another year of life for the celebrant.
- adj.* not burned or scorched; not consumed by fire; of or relating to materials or substances that are resistant to fire or heat
22. Due to snow and ice, many roads have become \_\_\_\_\_ and motorists are advised to travel gently.
- adj.* that cannot be trusted; malicious; hazardous, even while seeming safe
23. 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
24. The \_\_\_\_\_ colorful feathers brightened up the otherwise drab jungle.
- n.* a large, colorful parrot with a long tail found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, known for its striking plumage and its ability to mimic human speech and sounds

ANSWERS: 17. underworld, 18. disturb, 19. enlist, 20. shattered, 21. unburnt, 22. treacherous, 23. rev, 24. macaw's

25. The \_\_\_\_\_ venom can be lethal to humans.
- n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
26. The sperm \_\_\_\_\_ the egg, and fertilization occurred.
- v.* to make a woman or female animal pregnant; to infuse or fill something completely
27. 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
28. This statue is \_\_\_\_\_ from a single tree trunk.
- v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
29. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
30. He finally exploded with \_\_\_\_\_ due to the team's repeated failures.
- n.* extreme anger
31. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

ANSWERS: 25. scorpion's, 26. impregnated, 27. spat, 28. carved, 29. confused, 30. wrath, 31. mosquitos