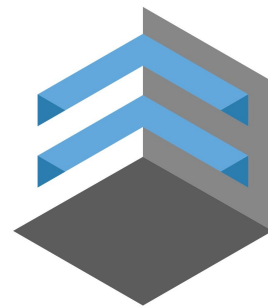


# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Rosenthal: Can you solve the human cannonball riddle? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_rosenthal\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_human\\_cannonball\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_rosenthal_can_you_solve_the_human_cannonball_riddle)

### 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

### cannonball

*n.* a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon  
*synonym*: projectile, ammunition, bullet

(1) a 4 kg **cannonball**, (2) human **cannonball**

The castle collapsed as multiple **cannonballs** hit the walls.

### trampoline

*n.* a strong fabric sheet attached by springs to a frame, used for bouncing on

*synonym*: rebounder, bouncer, springboard

(1) **trampoline** park, (2) **trampoline** jump

I love jumping on the **trampoline** in my backyard.

### trapeze

*n.* a horizontal bar or rope that is suspended from two points, used by acrobats and circus performers to perform aerial feats and acrobatics

*synonym*: swing bar, aerial hoop

(1) **trapeze** artist, (2) do the flying **trapeze**

The daring **trapeze** act left the audience gasping in amazement.

### cannon

*n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting

*synonym*: artillery, gun, ordnance

(1) **cannon** salute, (2) **cannon** ball

The heavy **cannon** fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.

## sabotage

*n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies

*synonym*: sabotage, subversion, destruction

(1) act of **sabotage**, (2) **sabotage** mission

The **sabotage** of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.

## abort

*v.* to terminate or cancel something before it is complete or fully developed; to cause the end of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable or can survive outside the womb

*synonym*: cancel, terminate, halt

(1) **abort** a mission, (2) **abort** a takeoff

The company had to **abort** the plan because of financial constraints.

## 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.

## eccentric

*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

*synonym*: bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters

He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

## doom

*n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

*synonym*: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

## **ringleader**

*n.* the leader or main organizer of a group, typically one that engages in a negative or illegal activity

*synonym:* leader, instigator, mastermind

(1) the **ringleader** of the gang, (2) political **ringleader**

The **ringleader** of the circus kept the audience entertained with their amazing tricks.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. tr____e artist                         | <i>n.</i> a horizontal bar or rope that is suspended from two points, used by acrobats and circus performers to perform aerial feats and acrobatics   |
| 2. ca____n ball                           | <i>n.</i> a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting  |
| 3. political rin____er                    | <i>n.</i> the leader or main organizer of a group, typically one that engages in a negative or illegal activity   |
| 4. display ec____ic behavior              | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way  |
| 5. sa____ge mission                       | <i>n.</i> the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies |
| 6. prophet of d__m                        | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided   |
| 7. pl____t against other major currencies | <i>v.</i> to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply   |
| 8. tra____ne jump                         | <i>n.</i> a strong fabric sheet attached by springs to a frame, used for bouncing on  |

ANSWERS: 1. trapeze, 2. cannon, 3. ringleader, 4. eccentric, 5. sabotage, 6. doom, 7. plummet, 8. trampoline

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 9. the rin_____er of the gang | <i>n.</i> the leader or main organizer of a group, typically one that engages in a negative or illegal activity   |
| 10. act of sa_____ge          | <i>n.</i> the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies |
| 11. tra_____ne park           | <i>n.</i> a strong fabric sheet attached by springs to a frame, used for bouncing on  |
| 12. a 4 kg can_____ll         | <i>n.</i> a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon   |
| 13. ca____n salute            | <i>n.</i> a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting  |
| 14. do the flying tr_____e    | <i>n.</i> a horizontal bar or rope that is suspended from two points, used by acrobats and circus performers to perform aerial feats and acrobatics   |
| 15. economic d__m             | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided   |
| 16. pl_____ting sales         | <i>v.</i> to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply   |
| 17. ab__t a mission           | <i>v.</i> to terminate or cancel something before it is complete or fully developed; to cause the end of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable or can survive outside the womb   |

ANSWERS: 9. ringleader, 10. sabotage, 11. trampoline, 12. cannonball, 13. cannon, 14. trapeze, 15. doom, 16. plummet, 17. abort

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|--------------------------|---|
| 18. human can_____ll     | <i>n.</i> a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon   |
| 19. ec_____ic characters | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way  |
| 20. ab__t a takeoff      | <i>v.</i> to terminate or cancel something before it is complete or fully developed; to cause the end of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable or can survive outside the womb |

ANSWERS: 18. cannonball, 19. eccentric, 20. abort

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.  
*n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
2. Everyone was aware of the impending \_\_\_\_\_ but was unable to prevent it.  
*n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
3. I love jumping on the \_\_\_\_\_ in my backyard.  
*n.* a strong fabric sheet attached by springs to a frame, used for bouncing on
4. The daring \_\_\_\_\_ act left the audience gasping in amazement.  
*n.* a horizontal bar or rope that is suspended from two points, used by acrobats and circus performers to perform aerial feats and acrobatics
5. The castle collapsed as multiple \_\_\_\_\_ hit the walls.  
*n.* a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon
6. He was \_\_\_\_\_ but he was also a genius.  
*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
7. The heavy \_\_\_\_\_ fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.  
*n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the circus kept the audience entertained with their amazing tricks.  
*n.* the leader or main organizer of a group, typically one that engages in a negative or illegal activity

ANSWERS: 1. sabotage, 2. doom, 3. trampoline, 4. trapeze, 5. cannonballs, 6. eccentric, 7. cannon, 8. ringleader

9. The company had to \_\_\_\_\_ the plan because of financial constraints.
- v. to terminate or cancel something before it is complete or fully developed; to cause the end of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable or can survive outside the womb
10. The stock prices have \_\_\_\_\_ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
- v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

ANSWERS: 9. abort, 10. plummeted