

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Andrew Smith: Why do we eat popcorn at the movies? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew\\_smith\\_why\\_do\\_we\\_eat\\_popcorn\\_at\\_the\\_movies](https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_smith_why_do_we_eat_popcorn_at_the_movies)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### popcorn

*n.* a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack

*synonym*: popped corn, puffed corn, corn kernels

(1) a **popcorn** vendor, (2) **popcorn** kernels

We popped some **popcorn** and settled in to watch a movie.

### whimsical

*adj.* unusual and not severe in a way that might be funny or annoying; determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

*synonym*: capricious, impulsive, flighty

(1) **whimsical** reasons, (2) a **whimsical** person

Much of his painting has a **whimsical** quality.

### teosinte

*n.* a wild grass of Mexico and Central America, from which maize or corn is believed to have been domesticated

(1) **teosinte** genome, (2) **teosinte** plant

Native people have been cultivating **teosinte** for food for thousands of years.

### pericarp

*n.* the outer layer or covering of a fruit or seed, usually consisting of several layers of tissue or cells that protect and enclose the seed

*synonym*: seed coat, fruit wall

(1) thin **pericarp**, (2) **pericarp** tissue

The **pericarp** of the fruit contains important nutrients and vitamins.

## explode

*v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

*synonym*: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

## starch

*n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals

*synonym*: carbohydrate, glucose, dextrin

(1) **starch** granules, (2) potato **starch**

When heated, **starch** molecules absorb water and become thick and gooey, making it a useful thickening agent in cooking.

## aroma

*n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

*synonym*: fragrance, scent, smell

(1) **aroma** therapy, (2) coffee **aroma**

The **aroma** of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.

## colonize

*v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

*synonym*: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

## parched

*adj.* extremely dry, hot, or thirsty; lacking moisture to the point of being brittle or withered

*synonym*: dry, dehydrated, arid

(1) **parched** climate, (2) **parched** crops

After walking in the desert for hours, I was **parched** and desperately needed water.

## reluctance

*n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking

*synonym*: hesitation, resistance, unwillingness

(1) overcoming **reluctance**, (2) **reluctance** in buying

The company's **reluctance** to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.

## mainstay

*n.* a thing that is relied upon to support or uphold something else

*synonym*: support, anchor, foundation

(1) the **mainstay** of the community, (2) country's **mainstay**

The company's **mainstay** product was a household appliance that was popular with consumers.

## savory

*adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

*synonym*: delicious, tasty, appetizing

(1) **savory** dish, (2) a **savory** omelet

The **savory** aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

## rove

*v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area

*synonym*: wander, roam, traverse

(1) **rove** the globe, (2) **rove** the countryside

We decided to **rove** around the city to explore new neighborhoods.

## brow

*n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead

*synonym*: forehead, hilltop, eyebrow

(1) the **brow** of a hill, (2) furrowed **brow**

She wiped the sweat from her **brow** after finishing the marathon.

## distract

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

*synonym*: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

## subtitle

*n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language

*synonym*: caption, heading, inscription

(1) chart **subtitle**, (2) foreign-language **subtitle**

Make sure to turn on **subtitles** so you can understand the foreign film.

## literate

*adj.* having the ability to read and write; possessing knowledge or understanding of a particular subject or topic

*synonym*: educated, well-read, knowledgeable

(1) **literate** population, (2) digitally **literate**

Being **literate** in multiple languages can open up many opportunities for travel and work.

## moviegoer

*n.* a person who regularly attends the movies or cinema, often as a form of entertainment or leisure activity

*synonym*: filmgoer, cinema fan, movie enthusiast

(1) **moviegoer** experience, (2) avid **moviegoer**

The film festival had a special section dedicated to movies recommended by **moviegoers**.

## pounce

*v.* to spring or jump on suddenly and aggressively, often to capture or attack; to seize an opportunity quickly and eagerly

*synonym*: swoop, leap, jump

(1) **pounce** on an opportunity, (2) **pounce** on prey  
The cat silently waited to **pounce** on the mouse.

## 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.

## mushroom

*n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

*synonym*: fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

## propel

*v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

*synonym*: drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. li\_\_\_\_te population *adj.* having the ability to read and write; possessing knowledge or understanding of a particular subject or topic
2. co\_\_\_\_ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
3. coffee ar\_\_a *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object
4. po\_\_\_\_n kernels *n.* a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack
5. the ma\_\_\_\_ay of the community *n.* a thing that is relied upon to support or uphold something else
6. pa\_\_\_\_d crops *adj.* extremely dry, hot, or thirsty; lacking moisture to the point of being brittle or withered
7. mu\_\_\_\_om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
8. te\_\_\_\_te genome *n.* a wild grass of Mexico and Central America, from which maize or corn is believed to have been domesticated
9. a wh\_\_\_\_al person *adj.* unusual and not severe in a way that might be funny or annoying; determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

ANSWERS: 1. literate, 2. colonize, 3. aroma, 4. popcorn, 5. mainstay, 6. parched, 7. mushroom, 8. teosinte, 9. whimsical

10. a sa\_\_\_y omelet *adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
11. ar\_\_a therapy *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object
12. r\_\_e the countryside *v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area
13. pa\_\_\_\_\_d climate *adj.* extremely dry, hot, or thirsty; lacking moisture to the point of being brittle or withered
14. foreign-language su\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language
15. ex\_\_\_\_\_e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
16. rel\_\_\_\_\_ce in buying *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
17. country's ma\_\_\_\_\_ay *n.* a thing that is relied upon to support or uphold something else
18. te\_\_\_\_\_te plant *n.* a wild grass of Mexico and Central America, from which maize or corn is believed to have been domesticated

ANSWERS: 10. savory, 11. aroma, 12. rove, 13. parched, 14. subtitle, 15. explode, 16. reluctance, 17. mainstay, 18. teosinte

19. pr\_\_\_l growth      *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
20. po\_\_\_e on prey      *v.* to spring or jump on suddenly and aggressively, often to capture or attack; to seize an opportunity quickly and eagerly
21. wh\_\_\_\_\_al reasons      *adj.* unusual and not severe in a way that might be funny or annoying; determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason
22. po\_\_\_e on an opportunity      *v.* to spring or jump on suddenly and aggressively, often to capture or attack; to seize an opportunity quickly and eagerly
23. ex\_\_\_\_\_e in anger      *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
24. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
25. di\_\_\_\_\_ct attention from the real issue      *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
26. chart su\_\_\_\_\_le      *n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language

ANSWERS: 19. propel, 20. pounce, 21. whimsical, 22. pounce, 23. explode, 24. opportune, 25. distract, 26. subtitle



27. pr\_\_\_l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
28. co\_\_\_\_\_ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
29. a po\_\_\_\_\_n vendor *n.* a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack
30. di\_\_\_\_\_ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
31. sa\_\_\_y dish *adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
32. furrowed b\_\_w *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
33. st\_\_\_h granules *n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
34. potato st\_\_\_h *n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
35. mo\_\_\_\_\_er experience *n.* a person who regularly attends the movies or cinema, often as a form of entertainment or leisure activity
36. digitally li\_\_\_\_\_te *adj.* having the ability to read and write; possessing knowledge or understanding of a particular subject or topic

ANSWERS: 27. propel, 28. colonize, 29. popcorn, 30. distract, 31. savory, 32. brow, 33. starch, 34. starch, 35. moviegoer, 36. literate

37. overcoming rel\_\_\_\_\_ce      *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
38. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
39. the b\_\_w of a hill      *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
40. mu\_\_\_\_\_om spores      *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
41. r\_\_e the globe      *v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area
42. thin pe\_\_\_\_\_rp      *n.* the outer layer or covering of a fruit or seed, usually consisting of several layers of tissue or cells that protect and enclose the seed
43. pe\_\_\_\_\_rp tissue      *n.* the outer layer or covering of a fruit or seed, usually consisting of several layers of tissue or cells that protect and enclose the seed
44. avid mo\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* a person who regularly attends the movies or cinema, often as a form of entertainment or leisure activity

ANSWERS: 37. reluctance, 38. opportune, 39. brow, 40. mushroom, 41. rove, 42. pericarp, 43. pericarp, 44. moviegoer

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Make sure to turn on \_\_\_\_\_ so you can understand the foreign film.
  - n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language
  
2. An increase in employment helps \_\_\_\_\_ economic growth.
  - v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
  
3. European powers \_\_\_\_\_ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
  - v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
  
4. She wiped the sweat from her \_\_\_\_\_ after finishing the marathon.
  - n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
  
5. The cat silently waited to \_\_\_\_\_ on the mouse.
  - v.* to spring or jump on suddenly and aggressively, often to capture or attack; to seize an opportunity quickly and eagerly
  
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.
  - n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
  
7. We popped some \_\_\_\_\_ and settled in to watch a movie.
  - n.* a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack

ANSWERS: 1. subtitles, 2. propel, 3. colonized, 4. brow, 5. pounce, 6. mushroom, 7. popcorn

8. The company's \_\_\_\_\_ to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.
- n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
9. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.
- v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
10. The company's \_\_\_\_\_ product was a household appliance that was popular with consumers.
- n.* a thing that is relied upon to support or uphold something else
11. Much of his painting has a \_\_\_\_\_ quality.
- adj.* unusual and not severe in a way that might be funny or annoying; determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason
12. The old building \_\_\_\_\_ in a fiery inferno.
- v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
13. The film festival had a special section dedicated to movies recommended by \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a person who regularly attends the movies or cinema, often as a form of entertainment or leisure activity
14. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.
- n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

ANSWERS: 8. reluctance, 9. distract, 10. mainstay, 11. whimsical, 12. exploded, 13. moviegoers, 14. opportune, 15. aroma

16. We decided to \_\_\_\_\_ around the city to explore new neighborhoods.
- v.* to move or travel aimlessly or in a wandering fashion; to roam or wander over a wide area
17. When heated, \_\_\_\_\_ molecules absorb water and become thick and gooey, making it a useful thickening agent in cooking.
- n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
18. After walking in the desert for hours, I was \_\_\_\_\_ and desperately needed water.
- adj.* extremely dry, hot, or thirsty; lacking moisture to the point of being brittle or withered
19. Being \_\_\_\_\_ in multiple languages can open up many opportunities for travel and work.
- adj.* having the ability to read and write; possessing knowledge or understanding of a particular subject or topic
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit contains important nutrients and vitamins.
- n.* the outer layer or covering of a fruit or seed, usually consisting of several layers of tissue or cells that protect and enclose the seed
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.
- adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
22. Native people have been cultivating \_\_\_\_\_ for food for thousands of years.
- n.* a wild grass of Mexico and Central America, from which maize or corn is believed to have been domesticated

ANSWERS: 16. rove, 17. starch, 18. parched, 19. literate, 20. pericarp, 21. savory, 22. teosinte

ANSWERS: