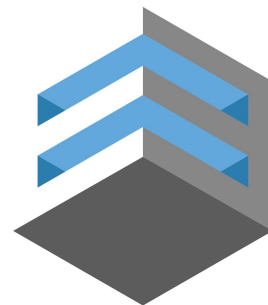


# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Bianca Tylek: The multibillion-dollar US prison*

*industry -- and how to dismantle it | TED Talk*

*[https://www.ted.com/talks/bianca\\_tylek\\_the\\_multibillion\\_dollar\\_us\\_prison\\_industry\\_and\\_how\\_to\\_dismantle\\_it](https://www.ted.com/talks/bianca_tylek_the_multibillion_dollar_us_prison_industry_and_how_to_dismantle_it)*

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### 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

### **inmate**

*n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility

*synonym*: prisoner, convict, detainee

(1) **inmate** population, (2) **inmate** rights

The prison implemented a new educational program for **inmates** to learn skills and prepare for life after release.

### **egregious**

*adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible

*synonym*: atrocious, flagrant, heinous

(1) **egregious** claim, (2) an **egregious** error

It was an **egregious** mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.

### **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.

### **incarcerate**

*v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

*synonym*: confine, detain, imprison

(1) **incarcerate** the murderer, (2) **incarcerate** her for life  
He was **incarcerated** for the duration of the war.

## disproportionately

*adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

*synonym*: excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

## predatory

*adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive

*synonym*: raptorial, hunting, greedy

(1) a **predatory** bird, (2) **predatory** warfare

The domesticated cat still has its **predatory** instincts.

## 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.

## convict

*v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime;  
(noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

*synonym*: condemn, sentence, judge

(1) **convict** him of manslaughter, (2) **convict** in a jail

He was **convicted** on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.

## improvisation

*n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

*synonym*: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

## **prioritize**

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

*synonym*: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

## **rot**

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

*synonym*: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

## **solitary**

adj. existing, living, or doing without others

*synonym*: lonely, unsociable, singular

(1) use of **solitary** confinement, (2) a **solitary** traveler

He never uttered a **solitary** word.

## **confinement**

n. the act of confining or limiting movement, often by keeping someone in a specific place or within a specific area; a state of being physically or emotionally restricted or limited

*synonym*: captivity, imprisonment, detention

(1) **confinement** cell, (2) house **confinement**

The prisoner spent months in solitary **confinement**.

## **endowment**

n. a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization

*synonym*: fund, gift, donation

(1) education **endowment** insurance, (2) **endowment** gift

The wealthy benefactor's **endowment** helped the university

build a new library.

## underpaid

*adj.* paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

*synonym*: undervalued, under-compensated, under-rewarded

(1) **underpaid** mail, (2) **underpaid** position

Many people believe that they are **underpaid** for the work that they do.

## wildfire

*n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

*synonym*: blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

## incarceration

*n.* the state of being confined in prison or jail

*synonym*: confinement, imprisonment, detention

(1) mass **incarceration**, (2) **incarceration** rates

The judge sentenced him to five years of **incarceration** for embezzlement.

## playbook

*n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

*synonym*: strategy, game plan, manual

(1) **playbook** strategy, (2) political **playbook**

The coach's **playbook** helped the team win the championship.

## abolition

*n.* the act of formally ending a system, practice, or institution, especially one that is considered unjust or harmful

*synonym*: termination, discontinuation, end

(1) complete **abolition**, (2) total **abolition** of a law

The **abolition** of slavery was a major milestone in the history

of the United States.

## dedicate

- v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

*synonym*: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

## dismantle

- v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

*synonym*: take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

## toxify

- v. to render something or someone toxic, poisonous, or harmful, often through exposure to pollution, chemicals, or other noxious substances

*synonym*: poison, contaminate, pollute

(1) **toxify** seafood, (2) **toxify** environment

The chemicals from the waste plant have started to **toxify** the nearby river.

## profiteer

- n. someone who seeks to make a large profit, often through unethical or exploitative means; someone who capitalizes on a particular situation to make money at the expense of others

*synonym*: exploiter, mercenary

(1) unscrupulous **profiteer**, (2) **profiteer** scheme

The corrupt politician was considered a **profiteer** as he used his power to enrich himself and his family.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. a pr_____ry bird     | <i>adj.</i> living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive   |
| 2. to____y environment  | <i>v.</i> to render something or someone toxic, poisonous, or harmful, often through exposure to pollution, chemicals, or other noxious substances  |
| 3. eg_____us claim      | <i>adj.</i> outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible   |
| 4. begin to r_t         | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually  |
| 5. a so_____ry traveler | <i>adj.</i> existing, living, or doing without others   |
| 6. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation  |
| 7. con_____nt cell      | <i>n.</i> the act of confining or limiting movement, often by keeping someone in a specific place or within a specific area; a state of being physically or emotionally restricted or limited |
| 8. pl_____ok strategy   | <i>n.</i> a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action              |

ANSWERS: 1. predatory, 2. toxify, 3. egregious, 4. rot, 5. solitary, 6. improvisation, 7. confinement, 8. playbook

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 9. de_____te a few hours               | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use                                |
| 10. di_____le a machine                | <i>v.</i> to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment  |
| 11. pri_____ze people over cars        | <i>v.</i> to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things   |
| 12. jazz imp_____ion                   | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation   |
| 13. in___e population                  | <i>n.</i> a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility   |
| 14. ind_____us student                 | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort  |
| 15. de_____te a chapter to the subject | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use                                |
| 16. arson-caused wi_____re             | <i>n.</i> a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope  |
| 17. political pl_____ok                | <i>n.</i> a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action |

ANSWERS: 9. dedicate, 10. dismantle, 11. prioritize, 12. improvisation, 13. inmate, 14. industrious, 15. dedicate, 16. wildfire, 17. playbook

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 18. un_____id position          | <i>adj.</i> paid less than a fair or reasonable wage  |
| 19. to____y seafood             | <i>v.</i> to render something or someone toxic, poisonous, or harmful, often through exposure to pollution, chemicals, or other noxious substances  |
| 20. in____e rights              | <i>n.</i> a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility  |
| 21. house con_____nt            | <i>n.</i> the act of confining or limiting movement, often by keeping someone in a specific place or within a specific area; a state of being physically or emotionally restricted or limited |
| 22. dis_____ely high            | <i>adv.</i> in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else                                   |
| 23. co____t in a jail           | <i>v.</i> to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison   |
| 24. en_____nt gift              | <i>n.</i> a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization                     |
| 25. co____t him of manslaughter | <i>v.</i> to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison   |
| 26. wi____re spread             | <i>n.</i> a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope   |

ANSWERS: 18. underpaid, 19. toxify, 20. inmate, 21. confinement, 22. disproportionately, 23. convict, 24. endowment, 25. convict, 26. wildfire



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 27. ind_____us worker                       | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort   |
| 28. total ab_____on of a law                | <i>n.</i> the act of formally ending a system, practice, or institution, especially one that is considered unjust or harmful  |
| 29. dis_____ely affected                    | <i>adv.</i> in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else                                 |
| 30. complete ab_____on                      | <i>n.</i> the act of formally ending a system, practice, or institution, especially one that is considered unjust or harmful  |
| 31. an eg_____us error                      | <i>adj.</i> outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible   |
| 32. di_____ct attention from the real issue | <i>v.</i> to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do  |
| 33. education en_____nt insurance           | <i>n.</i> a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization                   |
| 34. inc_____te the murderer                 | <i>v.</i> to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape   |
| 35. di_____le a system                      | <i>v.</i> to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment   |
| 36. pr_____er scheme                        | <i>n.</i> someone who seeks to make a large profit, often through unethical or exploitative means; someone who capitalizes on a particular situation to make money at the expense of others |

ANSWERS: 27. industrious, 28. abolition, 29. disproportionately, 30. abolition, 31. egregious, 32. distract, 33. endowment, 34. incarcerate, 35. dismantle, 36. profiteer

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 37. pri_____ze tasks             | <i>v.</i> to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things  |
| 38. use of so_____ry confinement | <i>adj.</i> existing, living, or doing without others   |
| 39. inc_____ion rates            | <i>n.</i> the state of being confined in prison or jail   |
| 40. inc_____te her for life      | <i>v.</i> to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape   |
| 41. pr_____ry warfare            | <i>adj.</i> living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive   |
| 42. un_____id mail               | <i>adj.</i> paid less than a fair or reasonable wage  |
| 43. di_____ct public opinion     | <i>v.</i> to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do  |
| 44. mass inc_____ion             | <i>n.</i> the state of being confined in prison or jail   |
| 45. r_t with age                 | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually  |
| 46. unscrupulous pr_____er       | <i>n.</i> someone who seeks to make a large profit, often through unethical or exploitative means; someone who capitalizes on a particular situation to make money at the expense of others |

ANSWERS: 37. prioritize, 38. solitary, 39. incarceration, 40. incarcerate, 41. predatory, 42. underpaid, 43. distract, 44. incarceration, 45. rot, 46. profiteer

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The domesticated cat still has its \_\_\_\_\_ instincts.  
*adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
2. He was \_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of the war.  
*v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.  
*n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
4. He was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_ and would often work late into the night.  
*adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
5. He was \_\_\_\_\_ on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.  
*v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
6. The corrupt politician was considered a \_\_\_\_\_ as he used his power to enrich himself and his family.  
*n.* someone who seeks to make a large profit, often through unethical or exploitative means; someone who capitalizes on a particular situation to make money at the expense of others
7. The prison implemented a new educational program for \_\_\_\_\_ to learn skills and prepare for life after release.  
*n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility

ANSWERS: 1. predatory, 2. incarcerated, 3. wildfire, 4. industrious, 5. convicted, 6. profiteer, 7. inmates

8. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.

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

9. He never uttered a \_\_\_\_\_ word.

*adj.* existing, living, or doing without others

10. He created a beautiful piece of music using only \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

11. The rich can often \_\_\_\_\_ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

*adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

12. Many people believe that they are \_\_\_\_\_ for the work that they do.

*adj.* paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

13. He \_\_\_\_\_ his life to helping others.

*v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

14. The coach's \_\_\_\_\_ helped the team win the championship.

*n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

15. The prisoner spent months in solitary \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* the act of confining or limiting movement, often by keeping someone in a specific place or within a specific area; a state of being physically or emotionally restricted or limited

ANSWERS: 8. distract, 9. solitary, 10. improvisation, 11. disproportionately, 12. underpaid, 13. dedicated, 14. playbook, 15. confinement

16. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_.

*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

17. The wealthy benefactor's \_\_\_\_\_ helped the university build a new library.

*n.* a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization

18. It was an \_\_\_\_\_ mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.

*adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible

19. The chemicals from the waste plant have started to \_\_\_\_\_ the nearby river.

*v.* to render something or someone toxic, poisonous, or harmful, often through exposure to pollution, chemicals, or other noxious substances

20. The \_\_\_\_\_ of slavery was a major milestone in the history of the United States.

*n.* the act of formally ending a system, practice, or institution, especially one that is considered unjust or harmful

21. The judge sentenced him to five years of \_\_\_\_\_ for embezzlement.

*n.* the state of being confined in prison or jail

22. The organization \_\_\_\_\_ the needs of the community in its decision-making.

*v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

23. The old building had to be \_\_\_\_\_ because it was structurally unsound.

*v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

ANSWERS: 16. rot, 17. endowment, 18. egregious, 19. toxify, 20. abolition, 21. incarceration, 22. prioritized, 23. dismantled

ANSWERS: