

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Shunan Teng: How the Monkey King escaped the underworld | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/shunan\\_teng\\_how\\_the\\_monkey\\_king\\_escaped\\_the\\_underworld](https://www.ted.com/talks/shunan_teng_how_the_monkey_king_escaped_the_underworld)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### quake

v. to shake or vibrate violently and for a short time

*synonym*: shake, trembler, tremor

(1) **quake** in his boots, (2) **quake** with cold

The earth began to **quake**, and he knew he had to leave the building immediately.

### prance

v. to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements

*synonym*: skip, hop, bounce

(1) **prance** around the living room, (2) **prance** like a horse

The peacock spread its feathers and **pranced** around, trying to impress the female peahens.

### troublemaker

n. a person who intentionally causes difficulties or problems for others, often by disruptive or provocative behavior; a person who tends to create or attract trouble or controversy

*synonym*: troublemonger, instigator, agitator

(1) **troublemaker** kid, (2) accused **troublemaker**

The teacher had to reprimand the **troublemaker** in class constantly.

## hatch

v. to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

*synonym* : incubate, breed, produce

(1) **hatch** a plan, (2) **hatch** a baby chick

The eggs began to **hatch**, and the small chicks emerged.

## brandish

v. to wave or display something, typically a weapon, in a threatening or aggressive manner; to exhibit something with pride or enthusiasm

*synonym* : wave, flourish, exhibit

(1) **brandish** a wand, (2) **brandish** a gun

The robber **brandished** a knife and demanded money from the store clerk.

## terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

*synonym* : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

## bewilder

v. to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

*synonym* : perplex, confound, puzzle

(1) **bewilder** the reader, (2) **bewilder** scientists

The complex instructions on the assignment sheet **bewilder** most students.

## gracious

*adj.* behaving in a kind, polite and generous way

*synonym* : cordial, affable, courteous

(1) in a **gracious** manner, (2) **gracious** hospitality

The staff is always helpful and **gracious**.

## stow

v. to pack or store something safely and securely, especially on a ship or aircraft; to hide or conceal something

*synonym* : store, pack, stash

(1) **stow** all electronic, (2) **stow** away goods

Please **stow** your luggage in the overhead compartment before takeoff.

## glee

*n.* a feeling of great happiness, joy, or pleasure, often accompanied by laughter or exuberance; a sense of delighted satisfaction from a positive result or accomplishment

*synonym*: delight, happiness, joy

(1) jumping for **glee**, (2) **glee** club

The children's faces were filled with **glee** as they ran around the playground.

## lavish

*adj.* large in amount and expensive or impressive

*synonym*: grate, grand, splendid

(1) **lavish** lifestyle, (2) enjoy a **lavish** trip abroad

He has earned **lavish** praise for his achievement.

## slumber

*n.* a state of sleep, especially a light sleep; (verb) to be asleep, or to take a nap

*synonym*: sleep, doze, snooze

(1) fall into a **slumber**, (2) **slumber** in class

She couldn't resist the temptation to **slumber** on the couch after lunch.

## grisly

*adj.* causing horror or disgust because of being connected with death or injury or having a raw or savage quality

*synonym*: gruesome, horrific, ghastly

(1) **grisly** death, (2) **grisly** details

The **grisly** scene of the crime horrified the witnesses.

## captor

*n.* a person who takes someone captive or hostage, often by force or coercion

*synonym*: abductor, kidnapper, detainee

(1) **captor** of hostages, (2) animal **captor**

The prisoner escaped from his **captor** and ran for his life.

## predicament

*n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

*synonym* : situation, quandary, plight

(1) tragic **predicament**, (2) **predicament** decision

He was in a **predicament** and didn't know how to escape it.

## merciless

*adj.* showing no pity or compassion, cruel or without mercy; harsh and unforgiving

*synonym* : ruthless, cruel, pitiless

(1) **merciless** criticism, (2) a **merciless** killer

The **merciless** dictator ruled with an iron fist, showing no mercy to those who opposed him.

## gruesome

*adj.* causing horror or disgust

*synonym* : appalling, horrific, terrible

(1) hear **gruesome** details, (2) **gruesome** accident

The **gruesome** crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.

## fable

*n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

*synonym* : fantasy, story, legend

(1) classic **fable**, (2) moralize a **fable**

In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known **fable**.

## reincarnation

*n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body

*synonym* : rebirth, regeneration, metempsychosis

(1) **reincarnation** cycle, (2) **reincarnation** belief

Some religions believe in the **reincarnation** of souls after death.

## maze

*n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through

*synonym* : labyrinth, puzzle, network

(1) puzzle **maze**, (2) labyrinth **maze**

We got lost in the **maze** of streets while exploring the city.

## clang

- v. to make a loud, resonant, metallic sound, often by striking two hard surfaces together; (noun) a loud, resonant, metallic sound, typically produced by striking two hard surfaces together

*synonym*: clatter, rattle, ring

(1) gate **clang** shut, (2) **clang** of machinery

The pots and pans in the kitchen began to **clang** loudly as the train passed.

## 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.

## swoop

- v. 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.

## tome

- n. a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book

*synonym*: book, volume, opus

(1) **tome** of knowledge, (2) ancient **tome**

I spent the whole weekend reading an academic **tome** about medieval history.

## 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.

## rebellion

*n.* an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler

*synonym* : insurrection, uprising, revolt

(1) **rebellion** leader, (2) excite **rebellion**

The antigovernment **rebellion** was put down quickly by the government's military forces.

## transfigure

*v.* to change the appearance or form of something completely to make it appear more beautiful or magnificent

*synonym* : transform, metamorphose, transmute

(1) **transfigure** the appearance, (2) **transfigure** a landscape

The magical spell was able to **transfigure** the prince into a frog.

## dizzy

*adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

*synonym* : addled, confounded, unsteady

(1) feel **dizzy**, (2) had a **dizzy** spell

Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting **dizzy**.

## 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.

## nimble

*adj.* quick and light in movement or action

*synonym* : agile, quick, flexible

(1) **nimble** handling, (2) **nimble-minded** person

His **nimble** movements allowed him to navigate the crowded streets with ease.

## liberate

*v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression

*synonym* : emancipate, release, set free

(1) **liberate** people from oppression, (2) **liberate** potential

The prisoners were **liberated** after the war ended.

## deft

*adj.* skillful or clever in one's movements or actions; nimble or agile; demonstrating dexterity or expertness

*synonym* : skillful, dexterous, adept

(1) **deft** handling of the problem, (2) **deft** touch

The **deft** musician played the complex piece flawlessly.

## swarm

*n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

*synonym* : horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

## immortality

*n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever

*synonym* : endless life, timelessness, agelessness

(1) the **immortality** of the soul, (2) achieve **immortality**

Many people believe in the concept of **immortality** and an afterlife.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. s\_\_w all electronic *v.* to pack or store something safely and securely, especially on a ship or aircraft; to hide or conceal something
2. gr\_\_\_\_\_me accident *adj.* causing horror or disgust
3. gate cl\_\_g shut *v.* to make a loud, resonant, metallic sound, often by striking two hard surfaces together; (noun) a loud, resonant, metallic sound, typically produced by striking two hard surfaces together
4. jumping for g\_\_e *n.* a feeling of great happiness, joy, or pleasure, often accompanied by laughter or exuberance; a sense of delighted satisfaction from a positive result or accomplishment
5. the threats te\_\_\_\_\_y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
6. puzzle m\_\_e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
7. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
8. rei\_\_\_\_\_ion cycle *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
9. ni\_\_\_e handling *adj.* quick and light in movement or action

ANSWERS: 1. stow, 2. gruesome, 3. clang, 4. glee, 5. terrify, 6. maze, 7. opportune, 8. reincarnation, 9. nimble



10. ca\_\_\_r of hostages *n.* a person who takes someone captive or hostage, often by force or coercion
11. sw\_\_p up the escalator *v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
12. tra\_\_\_\_\_re a landscape *v.* to change the appearance or form of something completely to make it appear more beautiful or magnificent
13. ha\_\_h a baby chick *v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
14. pre\_\_\_\_\_nt decision *n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation
15. enjoy a la\_\_\_h trip abroad *adj.* large in amount and expensive or impressive
16. labyrinth m\_\_e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
17. a me\_\_\_\_\_ss killer *adj.* showing no pity or compassion, cruel or without mercy; harsh and unforgiving
18. qu\_\_e with cold *v.* to shake or vibrate violently and for a short time
19. be\_\_\_\_\_er scientists *v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
20. had a di\_\_y spell *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

ANSWERS: 10. captor, 11. swoop, 12. transfigure, 13. hatch, 14. predicament, 15. lavish, 16. maze, 17. merciless, 18. quake, 19. bewilder, 20. dizzy

21. fall into a sl\_\_\_\_\_r *n.* a state of sleep, especially a light sleep; (verb) to be asleep, or to take a nap
22. gr\_\_\_\_y details *adj.* causing horror or disgust because of being connected with death or injury or having a raw or savage quality
23. gr\_\_\_\_\_us hospitality *adj.* behaving in a kind, polite and generous way
24. be\_\_\_\_\_er the reader *v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
25. li\_\_\_\_\_te potential *v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
26. ha\_\_h a plan *v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
27. classic fa\_\_e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
28. excite re\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler
29. moralize a fa\_\_e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
30. me\_\_\_\_\_ss criticism *adj.* showing no pity or compassion, cruel or without mercy; harsh and unforgiving
31. ni\_\_\_e-minded person *adj.* quick and light in movement or action
32. god of the und\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 21. slumber, 22. grisly, 23. gracious, 24. bewilder, 25. liberate, 26. hatch, 27. fable, 28. rebellion, 29. fable, 30. merciless, 31. nimble, 32. underworld

33. sw\_\_p down the water slide      *v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
34. d\_\_t touch      *adj.* skillful or clever in one's movements or actions; nimble or agile; demonstrating dexterity or expertness
35. li\_\_\_\_te people from oppression      *v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
36. tragic pre\_\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation
37. the imm\_\_\_\_\_ty of the soul      *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
38. qu\_\_e in his boots      *v.* to shake or vibrate violently and for a short time
39. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. accused tro\_\_\_\_\_ker      *n.* a person who intentionally causes difficulties or problems for others, often by disruptive or provocative behavior; a person who tends to create or attract trouble or controversy
41. d\_\_y gravity      *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
42. br\_\_\_\_\_sh a gun      *v.* to wave or display something, typically a weapon, in a threatening or aggressive manner; to exhibit something with pride or enthusiasm

ANSWERS: 33. swoop, 34. deft, 35. liberate, 36. predicament, 37. immortality, 38. quake, 39. opportune, 40. troublemaker, 41. defy, 42. brandish

43. cl\_\_g of machinery *v.* to make a loud, resonant, metallic sound, often by striking two hard surfaces together; (noun) a loud, resonant, metallic sound, typically produced by striking two hard surfaces together
44. la\_\_\_h lifestyle *adj.* large in amount and expensive or impressive
45. g\_\_e club *n.* a feeling of great happiness, joy, or pleasure, often accompanied by laughter or exuberance; a sense of delighted satisfaction from a positive result or accomplishment
46. in a gr\_\_\_\_us manner *adj.* behaving in a kind, polite and generous way
47. criminal und\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
48. hear gr\_\_\_\_\_me details *adj.* causing horror or disgust
49. achieve imm\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
50. animal ca\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person who takes someone captive or hostage, often by force or coercion
51. pr\_\_\_e around the living room *v.* to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
52. locust sw\_\_m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 43. clang, 44. lavish, 45. glee, 46. gracious, 47. underworld, 48. gruesome, 49. immortality, 50. captor, 51. prance, 52. swarm

53. gr\_\_\_y death *adj.* causing horror or disgust because of being connected with death or injury or having a raw or savage quality
54. sl\_\_\_\_\_r in class *n.* a state of sleep, especially a light sleep; (verb) to be asleep, or to take a nap
55. re\_\_\_\_\_on leader *n.* an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler
56. rei\_\_\_\_\_ion belief *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
57. te\_\_\_\_\_y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
58. t\_\_e of knowledge *n.* a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book
59. feel di\_\_y *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
60. d\_\_y authority *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
61. pr\_\_\_e like a horse *v.* to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
62. tra\_\_\_\_\_re the appearance *v.* to change the appearance or form of something completely to make it appear more beautiful or magnificent
63. br\_\_\_\_\_sh a wand *v.* to wave or display something, typically a weapon, in a threatening or aggressive manner; to exhibit something with pride or enthusiasm

ANSWERS: 53. grisly, 54. slumber, 55. rebellion, 56. reincarnation, 57. terrify, 58. tome, 59. dizzy, 60. defy, 61. prance, 62. transfigure, 63. brandish

64. s\_\_w away goods      *v.* to pack or store something safely and securely, especially on a ship or aircraft; to hide or conceal something
65. ancient t\_\_e      *n.* a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book
66. tro\_\_\_\_\_ker kid      *n.* a person who intentionally causes difficulties or problems for others, often by disruptive or provocative behavior; a person who tends to create or attract trouble or controversy
67. d\_\_t handling of the problem      *adj.* skillful or clever in one's movements or actions; nimble or agile; demonstrating dexterity or expertness
68. a sw\_\_m of mosquitoes      *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 64. stow, 65. tome, 66. troublemaker, 67. deft, 68. swarm

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The prisoners were \_\_\_\_\_ after the war ended.  
*v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
2. I spent the whole weekend reading an academic \_\_\_\_\_ about medieval history.  
*n.* a large, heavy book, usually referring to a scholarly work or reference book
3. The complex instructions on the assignment sheet \_\_\_\_\_ most students.  
*v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
4. His \_\_\_\_\_ movements allowed him to navigate the crowded streets with ease.  
*adj.* quick and light in movement or action
5. Please \_\_\_\_\_ your luggage in the overhead compartment before takeoff.  
*v.* to pack or store something safely and securely, especially on a ship or aircraft; to hide or conceal something
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. A \_\_\_\_\_ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.  
*n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
8. In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

ANSWERS: 1. liberated, 2. tome, 3. bewilder, 4. nimble, 5. stow, 6. swooped, 7. swarm, 8. fable

9. She couldn't resist the temptation to \_\_\_\_\_ on the couch after lunch.  
*n.* a state of sleep, especially a light sleep; (verb) to be asleep, or to take a nap
10. Some religions believe in the \_\_\_\_\_ of souls after death.  
*n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
11. The magical spell was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the prince into a frog.  
*v.* to change the appearance or form of something completely to make it appear more beautiful or magnificent
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.  
*adj.* causing horror or disgust
13. Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
14. The earth began to \_\_\_\_\_ and he knew he had to leave the building immediately.  
*v.* to shake or vibrate violently and for a short time
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ musician played the complex piece flawlessly.  
*adj.* skillful or clever in one's movements or actions; nimble or agile; demonstrating dexterity or expertness
16. The eggs began to \_\_\_\_\_ and the small chicks emerged.  
*v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
17. He was in a \_\_\_\_\_ and didn't know how to escape it.  
*n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

ANSWERS: 9. slumber, 10. reincarnation, 11. transfigure, 12. gruesome, 13. dizzy, 14. quake, 15. deft, 16. hatch, 17. predicament



18. The pots and pans in the kitchen began to \_\_\_\_\_ loudly as the train passed.
- v. to make a loud, resonant, metallic sound, often by striking two hard surfaces together; (noun) a loud, resonant, metallic sound, typically produced by striking two hard surfaces together
19. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ dictator ruled with an iron fist, showing no mercy to those who opposed him.
- adj. showing no pity or compassion, cruel or without mercy; harsh and unforgiving
21. The peacock spread its feathers and \_\_\_\_\_ around, trying to impress the female peahens.
- v. to move or dance about in a lively or playful manner, often with exaggerated movements or steps; to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner, often with exaggerated or showy movements
22. He has earned \_\_\_\_\_ praise for his achievement.
- adj. large in amount and expensive or impressive
23. It would be best not to \_\_\_\_\_ your associates into doing complex tasks.
- v. to frighten someone very much
24. The children's faces were filled with \_\_\_\_\_ as they ran around the playground.
- n. a feeling of great happiness, joy, or pleasure, often accompanied by laughter or exuberance; a sense of delighted satisfaction from a positive result or accomplishment

ANSWERS: 18. clang, 19. opportune, 20. merciless, 21. pranced, 22. lavish, 23. terrify, 24. glee

25. The prisoner escaped from his \_\_\_\_\_ and ran for his life.  
*n.* a person who takes someone captive or hostage, often by force or coercion
26. We got lost in the \_\_\_\_\_ of streets while exploring the city.  
*n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
27. Many people believe in the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ and an afterlife.  
*n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
28. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.  
*v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
29. 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
30. The staff is always helpful and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* behaving in a kind, polite and generous way
31. The robber \_\_\_\_\_ a knife and demanded money from the store clerk.  
*v.* to wave or display something, typically a weapon, in a threatening or aggressive manner; to exhibit something with pride or enthusiasm
32. The teacher had to reprimand the \_\_\_\_\_ in class constantly.  
*n.* a person who intentionally causes difficulties or problems for others, often by disruptive or provocative behavior; a person who tends to create or attract trouble or controversy

ANSWERS: 25. captor, 26. maze, 27. immortality, 28. defy, 29. underworld, 30. gracious, 31. brandished, 32. troublemaker

33. The antigovernment \_\_\_\_\_ was put down quickly by the government's military forces.

*n.* an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler

34. The \_\_\_\_\_ scene of the crime horrified the witnesses.

*adj.* causing horror or disgust because of being connected with death or injury or having a raw or savage quality

ANSWERS: 33. rebellion, 34. grisly