

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Kalika Bali: The giant leaps in language technology -- and who's left behind | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/kalika\\_bali\\_the\\_giant\\_leaps\\_in\\_language\\_technology\\_and\\_who\\_s\\_left\\_behind](https://www.ted.com/talks/kalika_bali_the_giant_leaps_in_language_technology_and_who_s_left_behind)

### 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

### linguist

*n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

*synonym*: grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

### irrespective

*adv.* without taking something into account; regardless of

*synonym*: heedless, inattentive, regardless

(1) **irrespective** of age, (2) **irrespective** of his will

Our company hires **irrespective** of national origin.

### buzzword

*n.* a word or phrase that is fashionable or popular within a particular industry, field, or culture, often used to convey a sense of innovation or sophistication

*synonym*: cant, catchphrase, trendy word

(1) **buzzword** bingo, (2) business **buzzwords**

Synergy has become such a **buzzword** in the business world that it has lost its meaning.

### underpin

*v.* to support or strengthen the foundations of something

*synonym*: support, foundation, base

(1) **underpin** a structure, (2) **underpin** democratization

The research findings **underpin** the theory that human

activities cause global warming.

## humongous

*adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big  
*synonym* : gigantic, enormous, colossal

(1) **humongous** appetite, (2) **humongous** amount

The new office building was **humongous** and could fit hundreds of employees comfortably.

## converse

*v.* to talk informally  
*synonym* : discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

## transcribe

*v.* to copy or reproduce something in written or printed form; to translate spoken language into written text  
*synonym* : copy, record, transliterate

(1) **transcribe** notes, (2) **transcribe** documents

She needs to **transcribe** the interview recording to write the article for the magazine.

## welsh

*v.* to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement  
*synonym* : default, renege, fail to pay

(1) **welsh** on a promise, (2) **welsh** on the deal

The shepherd had to **welsh** some of the animals due to illness.

## institutionalize

*v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)  
*synonym* : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

**app** *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC  
*synonym* : application, software  
(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**  
The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

**underserved** *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services  
(1) **underserved** market, (2) traditionally **underserved**  
This area is medically **underserved**.

**dignify** *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant  
*synonym* : elevate, ennoble, honor  
(1) **dignify** the role, (2) **dignify** the occasion  
It's important to **dignify** other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.

**electrify** *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something  
*synonym* : wire, amaze, astonish  
(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process  
The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

**storytelling** *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories  
*synonym* : narrating, relating, recounting  
(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**  
She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

## starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

*synonym* : famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

## retell

v. to tell someone about something again or differently

*synonym* : reiterate, repeat, restate

(1) **retell** a story, (2) **retell** an old tale

He **retells** the truth to plead not guilty.

## recount

v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story

*synonym* : narrate, tell, report

(1) **recount** the adventure, (2) **recount** a conversation with him

They **recount** events that have already occurred.

## 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.

## distort

v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

*synonym* : fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

## pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

*synonym* : articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

## Sanskrit

*n.* an ancient language of India and an important sacred language in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism; used as a scholarly and literary language in South Asia for thousands of years

(1) **Sanskrit** language, (2) **Sanskrit** literature

Some Indian classical dances and music are based on **Sanskrit** scriptures and texts.

## medicinal

*adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

*synonym*: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

## persevere

*v.* to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement

*synonym*: persist, endure, continue

(1) **persevere** through hardships, (2) **persevere** in my goals

Even when faced with challenges, it's important to **persevere** and never give up.

## aborigine

*n.* a person or group of people who are the original or indigenous inhabitants of a region or country, particularly in Australia or other parts of the world

*synonym*: native, indigenous, autochthonous

(1) **aborigine** settlement, (2) **aborigine** art

The government has been working to improve the living conditions of **aborigine** communities.

## willpower

*n.* the control exerted to do something or restrain impulses

*synonym*: determination, resolve, self-discipline

(1) demonstrate **willpower**, (2) lack of **willpower**

With strong **willpower** and determination, he could quit smoking for good.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. re\_\_\_l an old tale      *v.* to tell someone about something again or differently
2. pr\_\_\_\_\_ce a name      *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
3. ask a co\_\_\_\_\_se question      *v.* to talk informally
4. Sa\_\_\_\_\_it language      *n.* an ancient language of India and an important sacred language in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism; used as a scholarly and literary language in South Asia for thousands of years
5. und\_\_\_\_\_ed market      *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
6. di\_\_\_\_\_t the facts      *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
7. re\_\_\_\_\_t the adventure      *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story
8. pr\_\_\_\_\_ce a judgment      *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
9. we\_\_h on a promise      *v.* to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement
10. ins\_\_\_\_\_ize a system      *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
11. di\_\_\_\_\_y the occasion      *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant

ANSWERS: 1. retell, 2. pronounce, 3. converse, 4. Sanskrit, 5. underserved, 6. distort, 7. recount, 8. pronounce, 9. welsh, 10. institutionalize, 11. dignify

- |                                       |             |  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 12. killer a_p                        | <i>n.</i>   | (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC                          |
| 13. tra_____be notes                  | <i>v.</i>   | to copy or reproduce something in written or printed form; to translate spoken language into written text  |
| 14. el_____fy a manufacturing process | <i>v.</i>   | to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something                           |
| 15. ab_____ne art                     | <i>n.</i>   | a person or group of people who are the original or indigenous inhabitants of a region or country, particularly in Australia or other parts of the world |
| 16. un_____in a structure             | <i>v.</i>   | to support or strengthen the foundations of something  |
| 17. pe_____re in my goals             | <i>v.</i>   | to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement      |
| 18. un_____in democratization         | <i>v.</i>   | to support or strengthen the foundations of something  |
| 19. lack of wi_____er                 | <i>n.</i>   | the control exerted to do something or restrain impulses   |
| 20. sto_____ing performance           | <i>n.</i>   | the act or art of narrating or writing stories   |
| 21. me_____al chemistry               | <i>adj.</i> | of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease   |

ANSWERS: 12. app, 13. transcribe, 14. electrify, 15. aborigine, 16. underpin, 17. persevere, 18. underpin, 19. willpower, 20. storytelling, 21. medicinal

22. ins\_\_\_\_\_ize customary laws      *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
23. traditionally und\_\_\_\_\_ed      *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
24. re\_\_\_l a story      *v.* to tell someone about something again or differently
25. ab\_\_\_\_\_ne settlement      *n.* a person or group of people who are the original or indigenous inhabitants of a region or country, particularly in Australia or other parts of the world
26. business bu\_\_\_\_\_rds      *n.* a word or phrase that is fashionable or popular within a particular industry, field, or culture, often used to convey a sense of innovation or sophistication
27. el\_\_\_\_\_fy the audience      *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
28. demonstrate wi\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* the control exerted to do something or restrain impulses
29. Sa\_\_\_\_\_it literature      *n.* an ancient language of India and an important sacred language in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism; used as a scholarly and literary language in South Asia for thousands of years
30. tra\_\_\_\_\_be documents      *v.* to copy or reproduce something in written or printed form; to translate spoken language into written text

ANSWERS: 22. institutionalize, 23. underserved, 24. retell, 25. aborigine, 26. buzzword, 27. electrify, 28. willpower, 29. Sanskrit, 30. transcribe



31. hu\_\_\_\_\_us amount *adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big
32. co\_\_\_\_\_e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
33. di\_\_\_\_\_t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
34. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
35. st\_\_\_e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
36. bu\_\_\_\_\_rd bingo *n.* a word or phrase that is fashionable or popular within a particular industry, field, or culture, often used to convey a sense of innovation or sophistication
37. we\_\_h on the deal *v.* to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement
38. co\_\_\_\_\_se with an acquaintance *v.* to talk informally
39. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
40. st\_\_\_e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
41. cannot log in to the a\_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 31. humongous, 32. confuse, 33. distort, 34. storytelling, 35. starve, 36. buzzword, 37. welsh, 38. converse, 39. confuse, 40. starve, 41. app

42. traditional me\_\_\_\_\_al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
43. foreign li\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
44. di\_\_\_\_\_y the role *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
45. irr\_\_\_\_\_ive of age *adv.* without taking something into account; regardless of
46. irr\_\_\_\_\_ive of his will *adv.* without taking something into account; regardless of
47. pe\_\_\_\_\_re through hardships *v.* to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement
48. cognitive li\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
49. hu\_\_\_\_\_us appetite *adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big
50. re\_\_\_\_\_t a conversation with him *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story

ANSWERS: 42. medicinal, 43. linguist, 44. dignify, 45. irrespective, 46. irrespective, 47. persevere, 48. linguist, 49. humongous, 50. recount

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She needs to \_\_\_\_\_ the interview recording to write the article for the magazine.
  - v. to copy or reproduce something in written or printed form; to translate spoken language into written text
  
2. The research findings \_\_\_\_\_ the theory that human activities cause global warming.
  - v. to support or strengthen the foundations of something
  
3. The product developed through years of research continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the market.
  - v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
  
4. Some Indian classical dances and music are based on \_\_\_\_\_ scriptures and texts.
  - n. an ancient language of India and an important sacred language in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism; used as a scholarly and literary language in South Asia for thousands of years
  
5. She struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ the word in a foreign language.
  - v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
  
6. With strong \_\_\_\_\_ and determination, he could quit smoking for good.
  - n. the control exerted to do something or restrain impulses
  
7. The new policy aims to \_\_\_\_\_ the use of renewable energy sources.
  - v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

ANSWERS: 1. transcribe, 2. underpin, 3. electrify, 4. Sanskrit, 5. pronounce, 6. willpower, 7. institutionalize

8. He \_\_\_\_\_ the truth to plead not guilty.
- v. to tell someone about something again or differently
9. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
10. She enjoyed the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ with a person who spoke her language.
- v. to talk informally
11. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.
- v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
12. Synergy has become such a \_\_\_\_\_ in the business world that it has lost its meaning.
- n. a word or phrase that is fashionable or popular within a particular industry, field, or culture, often used to convey a sense of innovation or sophistication
13. The government has been working to improve the living conditions of \_\_\_\_\_ communities.
- n. a person or group of people who are the original or indigenous inhabitants of a region or country, particularly in Australia or other parts of the world
14. The shepherd had to \_\_\_\_\_ some of the animals due to illness.
- v. to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement
15. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the \_\_\_\_\_ release.
- n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 8. retells, 9. storytelling, 10. converse, 11. confused, 12. buzzword, 13. aborigine, 14. welsh, 15. app's

16. Our company hires \_\_\_\_\_ of national origin.

*adv.* without taking something into account; regardless of

17. The \_\_\_\_\_ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

*adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

18. Economists contend that taxes \_\_\_\_\_ consumer behavior in general.

*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

19. If you don't eat soon, you're going to \_\_\_\_\_.

*v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

20. Though I love literature, I'm a bad \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

21. The new office building was \_\_\_\_\_ and could fit hundreds of employees comfortably.

*adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big

22. Even when faced with challenges, it's important to \_\_\_\_\_ and never give up.

*v.* to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement

23. It's important to \_\_\_\_\_ other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.

*v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant

ANSWERS: 16. irrespective, 17. medicinal, 18. distort, 19. starve, 20. linguist, 21. humongous, 22. persevere, 23. dignify

24. They \_\_\_\_\_ events that have already occurred.

*v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story

25. This area is medically \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services

ANSWERS: 24. recount, 25. underserved