

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Katie Mack: The death of the universe -- and what it means for life | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/katie\\_mack\\_the\\_death\\_of\\_the\\_universe\\_and\\_what\\_it\\_means\\_for\\_life](https://www.ted.com/talks/katie_mack_the_death_of_the_universe_and_what_it_means_for_life)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### astonishing

*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

*synonym*: surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains  
The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

### devote

*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

*synonym*: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life  
He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

### cosmos

*n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

*synonym*: universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**  
Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

### encompass

*v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely

*synonym*: surround, encircle, include

(1) **encompass** a broad range, (2) **encompass** the enemy  
The optimal solution that would **encompass** all these elements has yet to be proposed.

## inferno

*n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs

*synonym*: hell, fiery pit, furnace

(1) a raging **inferno**, (2) devastating **inferno**

The building was consumed by an **inferno**, reducing it to ashes.

## churning

*n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy

*synonym*: agitation, turmoil, commotion

(1) butter **churning**, (2) **churning** emotions

The **churning** of the waves on the beach made it difficult to swim.

## humming

*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

*synonym*: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

## dissipated

*adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline

*synonym*: debauched, dissolute, decadent

(1) **dissipated** lifestyle, (2) **dissipated** energy

His **dissipated** behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.

## astronomer

*n.* a physicist who studies astronomy

*synonym*: stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

## leftover

*adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something

*synonym*: extra, residual, unused

(1) **leftover** from a party, (2) **leftover** goods

The chef will make soup with the **leftover** ham bone.

## primordial

*adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe

*synonym*: ancient, original, primary

(1) **primordial** forms of life, (2) **primordial** gas

The discovery of the **primordial** soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.

## observable

*adj.* that can be noticed or seen

*synonym*: visible, perceptible, detectable

(1) **observable** change, (2) experimentally **observable**

Any theorem relies on both **observable** fact and assumption.

## conflagration

*n.* a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly and can cause extensive damage; a great and wide-ranging conflict or war

*synonym*: blaze, holocaust, firestorm

(1) **conflagration** aftermath, (2) urban **conflagration**

The **conflagration** in the forest destroyed many homes and caused much damage.

## agonize

*v.* to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying

*synonym*: disturb, excruciate, lament

(1) **agonize** pain, (2) **agonize** about financing

He **agonized** over whether to accept the job offer.

## languish

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time

*synonym*: flag, wane, wither

(1) **languish** for lack of funding, (2) **languish** under illness

He continues to **languish** in prison.

## smolder

v. to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment

*synonym*: burn, smoke, simmer

(1) **smolder** in resentment for many years, (2) **smolder** beneath the surface

The fire continued to **smolder** long after the firefighters had left.

## evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

*synonym*: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

## cosmology

n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

*synonym*: cosmogony

(1) physical **cosmology**, (2) modern **cosmology**

**Cosmology** evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.

## blip

n. a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend

(1) temporary **blip**, (2) minor **blip**

The stock market had one bad **blip** today.

## **multiverse**

*n.* a hypothetical space or realm consisting of multiple universes, of which our universe is just one of them

(1) the **multiverse** hypothesis, (2) the concept of the **multiverse**

The various universes within the **multiverse** are sometimes called parallel universes.

## **insignificant**

*adj.* of little importance, influence, or power

*synonym*: unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

## **contemplate**

*v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

*synonym*: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

## **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.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. devastating in ____o         | <i>n.</i> a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs  |
| 2. ag____e pain                 | <i>v.</i> to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying  |
| 3. la____sh for lack of funding | <i>v.</i> (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time |
| 4. ev____te almost overnight    | <i>v.</i> to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually   |
| 5. modern co____gy              | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe   |
| 6. en____ss the enemy           | <i>v.</i> to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely   |
| 7. hu____g sound                | <i>adj.</i> producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee   |
| 8. ins____ant amount            | <i>adj.</i> of little importance, influence, or power   |
| 9. physical co____gy            | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe   |
| 10. economic d__m               | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided   |
| 11. de___e my own life          | <i>v.</i> to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose  |

ANSWERS: 1. inferno, 2. agonize, 3. languish, 4. evaporate, 5. cosmology, 6. encompass, 7. humming, 8. insignificant, 9. cosmology, 10. doom, 11. devote

12. the concept of the mul\_\_\_\_\_se      *n.* a hypothetical space or realm consisting of multiple universes, of which our universe is just one of them
13. butter ch\_\_\_\_\_ng      *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
14. urban con\_\_\_\_\_ion      *n.* a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly and can cause extensive damage; a great and wide-ranging conflict or war
15. ch\_\_\_\_\_ng emotions      *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
16. prophet of d\_\_m      *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
17. de\_\_\_e all of my energies      *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
18. ast\_\_\_\_\_ng achievement      *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
19. the mul\_\_\_\_\_se hypothesis      *n.* a hypothetical space or realm consisting of multiple universes, of which our universe is just one of them
20. origin of the co\_\_\_s      *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

ANSWERS: 12. multiverse, 13. churning, 14. conflagration, 15. churning, 16. doom, 17. devote, 18. astonishing, 19. multiverse, 20. cosmos

21. minor b\_\_p *n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
22. an ins\_\_\_\_\_ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
23. solar ast\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
24. exploration of co\_\_\_s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
25. pri\_\_\_\_\_al gas *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
26. sm\_\_\_\_\_r in resentment for many years *v.* to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment
27. la\_\_\_\_\_sh under illness *v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time
28. temporary b\_\_p *n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
29. le\_\_\_\_\_er from a party *adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something
30. en\_\_\_\_\_ss a broad range *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely

ANSWERS: 21. blip, 22. insignificant, 23. astronomer, 24. cosmos, 25. primordial, 26. smolder, 27. languish, 28. blip, 29. leftover, 30. encompass



31. pri\_\_\_\_\_al forms of life *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
32. con\_\_\_\_\_ted leaving school *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
33. hu\_\_\_\_\_g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
34. amateur ast\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
35. a raging in\_\_\_\_\_o *n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
36. ag\_\_\_\_\_e about financing *v.* to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying
37. sm\_\_\_\_\_r beneath the surface *v.* to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment
38. make ast\_\_\_\_\_ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
39. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed energy *adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
40. ev\_\_\_\_\_te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

ANSWERS: 31. primordial, 32. contemplate, 33. humming, 34. astronomer, 35. inferno, 36. agonize, 37. smolder, 38. astonishing, 39. dissipated, 40. evaporate

41. obs\_\_\_\_\_le change *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
42. con\_\_\_\_\_ion aftermath *n.* a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly and can cause extensive damage; a great and wide-ranging conflict or war
43. experimentally obs\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
44. le\_\_\_\_\_er goods *adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something
45. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed lifestyle *adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
46. con\_\_\_\_\_te a marriage *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

ANSWERS: 41. observable, 42. conflagration, 43. observable, 44. leftover, 45. dissipated, 46. contemplate

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the waves on the beach made it difficult to swim.  
*n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
2. The optimal solution that would \_\_\_\_\_ all these elements has yet to be proposed.  
*v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
3. Everyone was aware of the impending \_\_\_\_\_ but was unable to prevent it.  
*n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
4. The stock market had one bad \_\_\_\_\_ today.  
*n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
5. The news of her sudden death was \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who knew her.  
*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
6. I recently \_\_\_\_\_ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.  
*v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
7. This question has fascinated solar \_\_\_\_\_ for decades.  
*n.* a physicist who studies astronomy

ANSWERS: 1. churning, 2. encompass, 3. doom, 4. blip, 5. astonishing, 6. contemplated, 7. astronomers

8. The discovery of the \_\_\_\_\_ soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.  
*adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.  
*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the forest destroyed many homes and caused much damage.  
*n.* a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly and can cause extensive damage; a great and wide-ranging conflict or war
11. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ over whether to accept the job offer.  
*v.* to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying
13. The sun will \_\_\_\_\_ the mist.  
*v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
14. The chef will make soup with the \_\_\_\_\_ ham bone.  
*adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something
15. He made me feel small and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* of little importance, influence, or power

ANSWERS: 8. primordial, 9. humming, 10. conflagration, 11. cosmos, 12. agonized, 13. evaporate, 14. leftover, 15. insignificant

16. \_\_\_\_\_ evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.
- n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
17. The various universes within the \_\_\_\_\_ are sometimes called parallel universes.
- n.* a hypothetical space or realm consisting of multiple universes, of which our universe is just one of them
18. Any theorem relies on both \_\_\_\_\_ fact and assumption.
- adj.* that can be noticed or seen
19. He continues to \_\_\_\_\_ in prison.
- v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to lose vigor, health, or flesh; to be forced to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation or place, often for a long time
20. The building was consumed by an \_\_\_\_\_ reducing it to ashes.
- n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
21. The fire continued to \_\_\_\_\_ long after the firefighters had left.
- v.* to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment
22. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.
- adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline

ANSWERS: 16. Cosmology, 17. multiverse, 18. observable, 19. languish, 20. inferno, 21. smolder, 22. dissipated

23. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

- v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 23. devoted