

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Dennis E. Shasha: Can you solve the fantasy election riddle? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dennis\\_e\\_shasha\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_fantasy\\_election\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/dennis_e_shasha_can_you_solve_the_fantasy_election_riddle)

### 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

### joust

*n.* a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument

*synonym*: contest, tournament, competition

(1) **joust** tournament, (2) saber **joust**

The medieval **joust** was a popular form of entertainment and spectacle during the Middle Ages.

### troll

*n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

*synonym*: provocateur, antagonist, troublemaker

(1) feed a **troll**, (2) copyright **troll**

He was banned from the online forum for being a **troll** and causing trouble.

### statesman

*n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs

*synonym*: solon, politician, legislator

(1) a woman **statesman**, (2) international **statesman**

This statue honors a distinguished **statesman**.

## eyebrow

*n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans

*synonym* : brow, supercilium

(1) raise her **eyebrows**, (2) **eyebrow** cosmetics

She raised an inquiring **eyebrow** towards me.

## skew

*v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.

*synonym* : slant, tilt, distort

(1) **skew** the message, (2) **skew** social values

The results of the poll are **skewed** because it only surveyed a small group of people.

## cryptic

*adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

*synonym* : enigmatic, mysterious, obscure

(1) **cryptic** language, (2) **cryptic** crossword

The message was so **cryptic** that I had no idea what it meant.

## pollee

*n.* a person or entity who is being polled or surveyed to gather opinions or data

*synonym* : interviewee, respondent, survey taker

(1) **pollee** survey, (2) **pollee** in the recent election

The **pollee's** response in the survey indicated a strong preference for increased funding in public education.

## subtract

*v.* to take away or deduct a quantity or amount from a total; to remove or eliminate something from a larger whole

*synonym* : deduct, take away, remove

(1) **subtract** numbers, (2) **subtract** one from the total

I need to **subtract** the cost of my expenses from my income to see how much money I have left.

## 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.

## challenger

*n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge

*synonym*: contender, rival, contestant

(1) **challenger** brand, (2) political **challenger**

The **challenger** in the boxing match put up a good fight.

## sham

*n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

*synonym*: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

## disguise

*v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

*synonym*: mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

## rev

*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym*: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. international st\_\_\_\_\_an *n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
2. di\_\_\_\_\_se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
3. copyright tr\_\_l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
4. a woman st\_\_\_\_\_an *n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
5. po\_\_\_e in the recent election *n.* a person or entity who is being polled or surveyed to gather opinions or data
6. jo\_\_t tournament *n.* a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument
7. feed a tr\_\_l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 1. statesman, 2. disguise, 3. troll, 4. statesman, 5. pollee, 6. joust, 7. troll

8. s\_\_w social values      *v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
9. s\_\_w the message      *v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
10. cha\_\_\_\_\_er brand      *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
11. r\_v up the crowd      *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
12. su\_\_\_\_\_ct one from the total      *v.* to take away or deduct a quantity or amount from a total; to remove or eliminate something from a larger whole
13. cr\_\_\_\_\_c language      *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
14. turn out to be all s\_\_m      *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
15. su\_\_\_\_\_ct numbers      *v.* to take away or deduct a quantity or amount from a total; to remove or eliminate something from a larger whole
16. political cha\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge

ANSWERS: 8. skew, 9. skew, 10. challenger, 11. rev, 12. subtract, 13. cryptic, 14. sham, 15. subtract, 16. challenger

17. 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
18. ey\_\_\_\_w cosmetics      *n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans
19. 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
20. raise her ey\_\_\_\_ws      *n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans
21. a s\_\_m battle      *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
22. low-r\_v engine      *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
23. di\_\_\_\_se my feelings      *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
24. po\_\_\_\_e survey      *n.* a person or entity who is being polled or surveyed to gather opinions or data
25. cr\_\_\_\_c crossword      *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
26. saber jo\_\_t      *n.* a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument

ANSWERS: 17. swoop, 18. eyebrow, 19. swoop, 20. eyebrow, 21. sham, 22. rev, 23. disguise, 24. pollee, 25. cryptic, 26. joust

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Later it turned out that the politician \_\_\_\_\_ the fact from the public.  
*v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
2. 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
3. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of my expenses from my income to see how much money I have left.  
*v.* to take away or deduct a quantity or amount from a total; to remove or eliminate something from a larger whole
4. This statue honors a distinguished \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
5. He was banned from the online forum for being a \_\_\_\_\_ and causing trouble.  
*n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
6. The results of the poll are \_\_\_\_\_ because it only surveyed a small group of people.  
*v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
7. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 1. disguised, 2. swooped, 3. subtract, 4. statesman, 5. troll, 6. skewed, 7. rev



8. The medieval \_\_\_\_\_ was a popular form of entertainment and spectacle during the Middle Ages.
- n.* a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument
9. The data he prepared was completely \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ response in the survey indicated a strong preference for increased funding in public education.
- n.* a person or entity who is being polled or surveyed to gather opinions or data
11. The message was so \_\_\_\_\_ that I had no idea what it meant.
- adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
12. She raised an inquiring \_\_\_\_\_ towards me.
- n.* the hair arc over each eye in humans
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the boxing match put up a good fight.
- n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge

ANSWERS: 8. joust, 9. sham, 10. pollee's, 11. cryptic, 12. eyebrow, 13. challenger