

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lewis Carroll: "Jabberwocky": One of literature's best bits of nonsense | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/lewis\\_carroll\\_jabberwocky\\_one\\_of\\_literature\\_s\\_best\\_bits\\_of\\_nonsense](https://www.ted.com/talks/lewis_carroll_jabberwocky_one_of_literature_s_best_bits_of_nonsense)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### poem

*n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

*synonym*: ballad, lyric, verse

(1) a narrative **poem**, (2) **poem** to the dead

A great **poem** is a fountain forever overflowing with the waters of wisdom and delight.

### nonsensical

*adj.* lacking in sense or meaning; absurd, irrational, or illogical

*synonym*: absurd, illogical, irrational

(1) **nonsensical** idea, (2) **nonsensical** statement

The comedian's jokes could have been more **nonsensical** and confused the audience.

### ado

*n.* an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort

*synonym*: commotion, fuss, bother

(1) much **ado**, (2) kick up **ado**

We need to resolve this issue without any further **ado**.

### gyre

*n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents

*synonym* : spiral, vortex, whirl

(1) **gyre** movement, (2) subtropical **gyre**

The trash caught in the **gyre** in the ocean, forming a massive garbage patch.

## **beware**

*v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

*synonym* : heed, caution, alert

(1) **beware** of scams, (2) **beware** of strangers

Please **beware** of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.

## **jaw**

*n.* either of the two bones at the bottom of the face that moves when you open your mouth; (verb) talk socially without exchanging too much information

*synonym* : mouth, (verb) chitchat

(1) snatch victory from the **jaws** of defeat, (2) **jaw** muscle

He dropped his **jaw** at the unexpected sight.

## **claw**

*n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

*synonym* : paw, talon, nail

(1) **claw** marks, (2) **claw** hammer

The bear used its **claw** to catch a fish in the river.

## **shun**

*v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

*synonym* : avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

## **foe**

*n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another

*synonym* : enemy, adversary, opponent

(1) a political **foe**, (2) bitter **foe**

The superhero's arch- **foe** was an evil mastermind who always got away.

## awhile

*adv.* for a short time; a little while

*synonym* : for a while, temporarily, briefly

(1) rest **awhile**, (2) to be patient **awhile**

They spent **awhile** longer admiring the view before heading back.

## flame

*n.* a bright, visible light and heat source caused by combustion; a strong, intense feeling typically associated with passion, aggression, or anger

*synonym* : blaze, inferno, fire

(1) **flame** of passion, (2) simmering **flame**

The **flame** of the candle flickered in the darkness of the room.

## whiffle

*n.* a light gust or puff of air; spinning toys that emit a whistling sound as they fly; a type of baseball pitch that involves a sudden change in the direction of the ball; (verb) to move or blow with a light, fluttering or wavering motion

*synonym* : drift, gust, breeze

(1) **whiffle** through the air, (2) **whiffle** bat

The **whiffle** ball game was a popular pastime during the summer months.

## burble

*v.* to make a continuous murmuring or bubbling sound; to speak in a soft, soothing, or childish manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound or the act of producing such a sound

*synonym* : gurgle, babble, murmur

(1) **burble** softly, (2) stream **burble**

The boiling pot of soup **burbled** on the stove.

## blade

*n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting

*synonym*: knife, sword, cutter

(1) a **blade** of grass, (2) the **blade** of a turbine

The **blade** of the katana itself is still in excellent condition.

## snicker

*v.* to laugh in a sly, suppressed, or scornful manner; to snigger; to express amusement or disdain in a quiet or subdued way

*synonym*: chuckle, snigger, giggle

(1) **snicker** quietly, (2) **snicker** to himself

He couldn't help but **snicker** at his friend's silly joke.

## galumph

*v.* to move or run in a clumsy, heavy, or noisy manner, often with exaggerated movements; to proceed or act in a carefree or ungainly way

*synonym*: stomp, clump, lumber

(1) **galumph** across the stage, (2) **galumph** through the woods

I watched the elephant **galumph** across the savannah with grace and power.

## slay

*v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon

*synonym*: kill, murder, eliminate

(1) **slay** a dragon, (2) **slay** civilians

The singer **slayed** the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.

## beam

*n.* a long, sturdy piece of timber, metal, or other material used to support a structure or span a distance; a ray or stream of light emitted by a source

*synonym*: ray, ray of light, shaft of light

(1) **beam** of light, (2) a structural **beam** of a building

The sun's **beam** shone through the window and illuminated the room.

## **chortle**

*n.* a chuckle or laugh that is mixed with or characterized by a snorting or snuffling sound

*synonym*: giggle, chuckle, laugh

(1) a **chortle** of laughter, (2) a stifled **chortle**

She couldn't help but give a little **chortle** when she saw the child's silly drawing.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. bu\_\_\_e softly  
v. to make a continuous murmuring or bubbling sound; to speak in a soft, soothing, or childish manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound or the act of producing such a sound
2. sn\_\_\_\_r quietly  
v. to laugh in a sly, suppressed, or scornful manner; to snigger; to express amusement or disdain in a quiet or subdued way
3. s\_\_y a dragon  
v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon
4. s\_\_n a person  
v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
5. s\_\_y civilians  
v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon
6. ga\_\_\_\_h through the woods  
v. to move or run in a clumsy, heavy, or noisy manner, often with exaggerated movements; to proceed or act in a carefree or ungainly way
7. much a\_o  
n. an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort
8. stream bu\_\_\_e  
v. to make a continuous murmuring or bubbling sound; to speak in a soft, soothing, or childish manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound or the act of producing such a sound
9. be\_\_\_e of strangers  
v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

ANSWERS: 1. burble, 2. snicker, 3. slay, 4. shun, 5. slay, 6. galumph, 7. ado, 8. burble, 9. beware

10. to be patient aw\_\_\_e *adv.* for a short time; a little while
11. j\_w muscle *n.* either of the two bones at the bottom of the face that moves when you open your mouth; (verb) talk socially without exchanging too much information
12. wh\_\_\_\_e through the air *n.* a light gust or puff of air; spinning toys that emit a whistling sound as they fly; a type of baseball pitch that involves a sudden change in the direction of the ball; (verb) to move or blow with a light, fluttering or wavering motion
13. a stifled ch\_\_\_\_e *n.* a chuckle or laugh that is mixed with or characterized by a snorting or snuffling sound
14. s\_\_n office politics *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
15. be\_\_\_e of scams *v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
16. rest aw\_\_\_e *adv.* for a short time; a little while
17. fl\_\_e of passion *n.* a bright, visible light and heat source caused by combustion; a strong, intense feeling typically associated with passion, aggression, or anger
18. b\_\_m of light *n.* a long, sturdy piece of timber, metal, or other material used to support a structure or span a distance; a ray or stream of light emitted by a source
19. a structural b\_\_m of a building *n.* a long, sturdy piece of timber, metal, or other material used to support a structure or span a distance; a ray or stream of light emitted by a source

ANSWERS: 10. awhile, 11. jaw, 12. whiffle, 13. chortle, 14. shun, 15. beware, 16. awhile, 17. flame, 18. beam, 19. beam

20. simmering fl\_\_e *n.* a bright, visible light and heat source caused by combustion; a strong, intense feeling typically associated with passion, aggression, or anger
21. ga\_\_\_\_h across the stage *v.* to move or run in a clumsy, heavy, or noisy manner, often with exaggerated movements; to proceed or act in a carefree or ungainly way
22. sn\_\_\_\_r to himself *v.* to laugh in a sly, suppressed, or scornful manner; to snigger; to express amusement or disdain in a quiet or subdued way
23. non\_\_\_\_al idea *adj.* lacking in sense or meaning; absurd, irrational, or illogical
24. non\_\_\_\_al statement *adj.* lacking in sense or meaning; absurd, irrational, or illogical
25. g\_\_e movement *n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
26. c\_\_w marks *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
27. subtropical g\_\_e *n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
28. kick up a\_o *n.* an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort

ANSWERS: 20. flame, 21. galumph, 22. snicker, 23. nonsensical, 24. nonsensical, 25. gyre, 26. claw, 27. gyre, 28. ado



29. p\_\_m to the dead *n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery
30. a political f\_e *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
31. a bl\_\_e of grass *n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
32. wh\_\_\_\_e bat *n.* a light gust or puff of air; spinning toys that emit a whistling sound as they fly; a type of baseball pitch that involves a sudden change in the direction of the ball; (verb) to move or blow with a light, fluttering or wavering motion
33. bitter f\_e *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
34. snatch victory from the j\_ws of defeat *n.* either of the two bones at the bottom of the face that moves when you open your mouth; (verb) talk socially without exchanging too much information
35. c\_\_w hammer *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

ANSWERS: 29. poem, 30. foe, 31. blade, 32. whiffle, 33. foe, 34. jaw, 35. claw

36. the bl\_\_e of a turbine *n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
37. a narrative p\_\_m *n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery
38. a ch\_\_\_\_e of laughter *n.* a chuckle or laugh that is mixed with or characterized by a snorting or snuffling sound

ANSWERS: 36. blade, 37. poem, 38. chortle

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ ball game was a popular pastime during the summer months.
  - n.* a light gust or puff of air; spinning toys that emit a whistling sound as they fly; a type of baseball pitch that involves a sudden change in the direction of the ball; (verb) to move or blow with a light, fluttering or wavering motion
  
2. The singer \_\_\_\_\_ the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.
  - v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
  
3. The bear used its \_\_\_\_\_ to catch a fish in the river.
  - n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
  
4. Please \_\_\_\_\_ of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.
  - v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
  
5. The sun's \_\_\_\_\_ shone through the window and illuminated the room.
  - n.* a long, sturdy piece of timber, metal, or other material used to support a structure or span a distance; a ray or stream of light emitted by a source
  
6. He dropped his \_\_\_\_\_ at the unexpected sight.
  - n.* either of the two bones at the bottom of the face that moves when you open your mouth; (verb) talk socially without exchanging too much information
  
7. A great \_\_\_\_\_ is a fountain forever overflowing with the waters of wisdom and delight.
  - n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

ANSWERS: 1. whiffle, 2. slayed, 3. claw, 4. beware, 5. beam, 6. jaw, 7. poem

8. We need to resolve this issue without any further \_\_\_\_.
- n.* an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort
9. I watched the elephant \_\_\_\_\_ across the savannah with grace and power.
- v.* to move or run in a clumsy, heavy, or noisy manner, often with exaggerated movements; to proceed or act in a carefree or ungainly way
10. He couldn't help but \_\_\_\_\_ at his friend's silly joke.
- v.* to laugh in a sly, suppressed, or scornful manner; to snigger; to express amusement or disdain in a quiet or subdued way
11. The trash caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean, forming a massive garbage patch.
- n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
12. They spent \_\_\_\_\_ longer admiring the view before heading back.
- adv.* for a short time; a little while
13. The boiling pot of soup \_\_\_\_\_ on the stove.
- v.* to make a continuous murmuring or bubbling sound; to speak in a soft, soothing, or childish manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound or the act of producing such a sound
14. The superhero's arch-\_\_\_\_ was an evil mastermind who always got away.
- n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the candle flickered in the darkness of the room.
- n.* a bright, visible light and heat source caused by combustion; a strong, intense feeling typically associated with passion, aggression, or anger

ANSWERS: 8. ado, 9. galumph, 10. snicker, 11. gyre, 12. awhile, 13. burred, 14. foe, 15. flame

16. The comedian's jokes could have been more \_\_\_\_\_ and confused the audience.  
*adj.* lacking in sense or meaning; absurd, irrational, or illogical
17. He \_\_\_\_\_ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.  
*v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the katana itself is still in excellent condition.  
*n.* the flat part of a knife, weapon, or machine with a very thin edge used for cutting
19. She couldn't help but give a little \_\_\_\_\_ when she saw the child's silly drawing.  
*n.* a chuckle or laugh that is mixed with or characterized by a snorting or snuffling sound

ANSWERS: 16. nonsensical, 17. shunned, 18. blade, 19. chortle