

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Susan Lupack: The race to decode a mysterious language | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/susan\\_lupack\\_the\\_race\\_to\\_decode\\_a\\_mysterious\\_language](https://www.ted.com/talks/susan_lupack_the_race_to_decode_a_mysterious_language)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### archaeology

*n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**

She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

### Arthurian

*adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

### uncover

*v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

*synonym*: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

### inscribe

*v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record

*synonym*: engrave, carve, etch

(1) **inscribe** a message, (2) **inscribe** in her mind clearly

The artist **inscribed** a beautiful design on the surface of the

vase.

## elude

*v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning

*synonym*: evade, avoid, dodge

(1) **elude** the law, (2) **elude** responsibility for the failure

The suspect **eluded** capture for weeks before being caught by the police.

## fresco

*n.* a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image

*synonym*: mural, painting, wall art

(1) medieval **fresco**, (2) **fresco** secco

The **fresco** paintings in the church were over 500 years old.

## 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.

## hallway

*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

*synonym*: foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

## mythical

*adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

*synonym*: mythological, fictitious, legendary

(1) **mythical** heroes, (2) **mythical** world

Many cultures have their **mythical** creatures and legends.

## dub

*v.* to give someone or something an unofficial name or nickname; to provide movies with a voice of a foreign language

*synonym* : name, designate, nickname

(1) **dub** the film in English, (2) **dub** data

We **dubbed** him Ironman because of his toughness.

## intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

*synonym* : amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

## inscription

n. a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

*synonym* : engraving, writing, script

(1) **inscription** on a plaque, (2) funerary **inscriptions**

The ancient coin had an **inscription** in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.

## decipher

v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

*synonym* : interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message

He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

## syllable

n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants

(1) **syllable** structure, (2) single **syllable**

Emphasize the second **syllable** when pronouncing it.

## consonant

n. a speech sound that is produced by completely or partially blocking the airflow through the mouth; a letter or group of letters representing a consonant sound, for example, "b," "c," "d," etc.

*synonym* : agreement, harmony, concord

(1) **consonant** blends, (2) a medial **consonant**

The **consonant** sounds at the beginning and end of the word made it easy to pronounce.

## vowel

*n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth

*synonym*: letter, sound, syllable

(1) **vowel** chart, (2) **vowel** combination

Please pronounce your name slowly and emphasize the **vowel** sounds.

## carton

*n.* a lightbox or container made of cardboard, typically used for packaging or storing items

*synonym*: box, package, container

(1) **carton** box, (2) empty **carton**

I need a **carton** of milk from the grocery store.

## obsess

*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

*synonym*: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

## excavate

*v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

*synonym*: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil

The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

## domino

*n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events

*synonym*: tile, block, ivory

(1) **domino** chain, (2) **domino** effect

We knocked over a stack of **dominoes** and watched them fall one by one.

## unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

*synonym*: separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

## 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**.

## conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

*synonym*: defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

## invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

*synonym*: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. de\_\_\_\_er code *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
2. Ar\_\_\_\_\_an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
3. sy\_\_\_\_\_le structure *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
4. wax a ha\_\_\_\_\_y floor *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
5. un\_\_\_\_\_r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
6. in\_\_\_\_\_be a message *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
7. labyrinth m\_\_e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
8. empty ca\_\_\_n *n.* a lightbox or container made of cardboard, typically used for packaging or storing items
9. the institute of arc\_\_\_\_\_gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

ANSWERS: 1. decipher, 2. Arthurian, 3. syllable, 4. hallway, 5. uncover, 6. inscribe, 7. maze, 8. carton, 9. archaeology

10. funerary ins\_\_\_\_\_ons *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
11. a medial co\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a speech sound that is produced by completely or partially blocking the airflow through the mouth; a letter or group of letters representing a consonant sound, for example, "b," "c," "d," etc.
12. in\_\_\_e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
13. 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
14. prehistoric arc\_\_\_\_\_gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
15. do\_\_\_o chain *n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events
16. el\_\_\_e responsibility for the failure *v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
17. single sy\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants

ANSWERS: 10. inscription, 11. consonant, 12. invade, 13. rev, 14. archaeology, 15. domino, 16. elude, 17. syllable

18. vo\_\_l combination *n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
19. un\_\_\_\_l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
20. 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
21. puzzle m\_\_e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
22. d\_b data *v.* to give someone or something an unofficial name or nickname; to provide movies with a voice of a foreign language
23. un\_\_\_\_r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
24. in\_\_\_\_be in her mind clearly *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
25. co\_\_\_\_r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
26. the head of a ha\_\_\_\_y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

ANSWERS: 18. vowel, 19. unravel, 20. rev, 21. maze, 22. dub, 23. uncover, 24. inscribe, 25. conquer, 26. hallway



27. un\_\_\_\_\_l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
28. co\_\_\_\_\_nt blends *n.* a speech sound that is produced by completely or partially blocking the airflow through the mouth; a letter or group of letters representing a consonant sound, for example, "b," "c," "d," etc.
29. d\_b the film in English *v.* to give someone or something an unofficial name or nickname; to provide movies with a voice of a foreign language
30. he is ob\_\_\_sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
31. my\_\_\_\_\_al world *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
32. co\_\_\_\_\_r fatal disease *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
33. in\_\_\_\_\_fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
34. ca\_\_\_n box *n.* a lightbox or container made of cardboard, typically used for packaging or storing items
35. medieval fr\_\_\_o *n.* a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image
36. my\_\_\_\_\_al heroes *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

ANSWERS: 27. unravel, 28. consonant, 29. dub, 30. obsess, 31. mythical, 32. conquer, 33. intensify, 34. carton, 35. fresco, 36. mythical

37. in\_\_\_\_\_fy a good relationship      *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
38. ex\_\_\_\_\_te soil      *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
39. de\_\_\_\_\_er message      *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
40. fr\_\_\_\_o secco      *n.* a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image
41. ins\_\_\_\_\_on on a plaque      *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
42. vo\_\_l chart      *n.* a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
43. in\_\_\_e other tissues      *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
44. el\_\_\_e the law      *v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
45. ex\_\_\_\_\_te a deep hole      *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
46. ob\_\_\_s over her weight      *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 37. intensify, 38. excavate, 39. decipher, 40. fresco, 41. inscription, 42. vowel, 43. invade, 44. elude, 45. excavate, 46. obsess

47. do\_\_\_o effect

*n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events

48. the Ar\_\_\_\_\_an cycle

*adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

ANSWERS: 47. domino, 48. Arthurian

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The archaeologists \_\_\_\_\_ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.
  - v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
  
2. She teaches \_\_\_\_\_ at the local university.
  - n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
  
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ paintings in the church were over 500 years old.
  - n. a painting technique in which water and pigment are applied to wet plaster, producing a durable and luminous image
  
4. Please pronounce your name slowly and emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ sounds.
  - n. a speech sound pronounced with an open vocal tract, typically made by vibrating the vocal cords and without any constriction or obstruction of airflow in the lungs or mouth
  
5. 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
  
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ sounds at the beginning and end of the word made it easy to pronounce.
  - n. a speech sound that is produced by completely or partially blocking the airflow through the mouth; a letter or group of letters representing a consonant sound, for example, "b," "c," "d," etc.
  
7. Rebels have pledged to \_\_\_\_\_ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
  - v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

ANSWERS: 1. excavated, 2. archaeology, 3. fresco, 4. vowel, 5. maze, 6. consonant, 7. intensify

8. Detectives are still attempting to \_\_\_\_\_ the mystery of his death.  
*v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
9. He spent hours trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the ancient text.  
*v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
10. You must \_\_\_\_\_ your anxiety about driving.  
*v.* to bring under control by force or authority
11. He dashed down a \_\_\_\_\_ to a bathroom.  
*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
12. I need a \_\_\_\_\_ of milk from the grocery store.  
*n.* a lightbox or container made of cardboard, typically used for packaging or storing items
13. The suspect \_\_\_\_\_ capture for weeks before being caught by the police.  
*v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
14. I have no intention to \_\_\_\_\_ your privacy.  
*v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
15. The ancient coin had an \_\_\_\_\_ in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.  
*n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

ANSWERS: 8. unravel, 9. decipher, 10. conquer, 11. hallway, 12. carton, 13. eluded, 14. invade, 15. inscription

16. The \_\_\_\_\_ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.  
*adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
17. Emphasize the second \_\_\_\_\_ when pronouncing it.  
*n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
18. We knocked over a stack of \_\_\_\_\_ and watched them fall one by one.  
*n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events
19. He continued his investigation and soon \_\_\_\_\_ another crime.  
*v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
20. He's utterly \_\_\_\_\_ with his promotion.  
*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
21. We \_\_\_\_\_ him Ironman because of his toughness.  
*v.* to give someone or something an unofficial name or nickname; to provide movies with a voice of a foreign language
22. Many cultures have their \_\_\_\_\_ creatures and legends.  
*adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
23. 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: 16. Arthurian, 17. syllable, 18. dominoes, 19. uncovered, 20. obsessed, 21. dubbed, 22. mythical, 23. rev

24. The artist \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful design on the surface of the vase.

- v. to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record

ANSWERS: 24. inscribed