

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Gabriel Prieto: A day in the life of a Peruvian shaman*  
| TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/gabriel\\_prieto\\_a\\_day\\_in\\_the\\_life\\_of\\_a\\_peruvian\\_shaman](https://www.ted.com/talks/gabriel_prieto_a_day_in_the_life_of_a_peruvian_shaman)

### 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

### 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**.

### frown

*v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

*synonym* : scowl, glare, disapprove

(1) people with **frown** faces, (2) a worried **frown**

Thinking always made him **frown**.

### dusty

*adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

*synonym* : stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

## towering

*adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

*synonym* : lofty, tall, excessive

(1) **towering** trees, (2) **towering** mountain

The **towering** skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.

## villager

*n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community

*synonym* : resident, inhabitant, countryperson

(1) **villager** community, (2) local **villager**

The rural **villagers** were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.

## reed

*n.* a tall, slender-leaved plant that grows in water; a thin strip of wood or metal that vibrates to produce sound in certain musical instruments such as oboe, clarinet, and saxophone

*synonym* : cane, grass

(1) **reed** instrument, (2) a young bud of **reed**

The **reed** in the wind instrument needs to be replaced.

## shellfish

*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten

*synonym* : clam, mollusk

(1) **shellfish** allergy, (2) edible **shellfish**

**Shellfish** can cause allergic reactions in certain people.

## urchin

*n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

*synonym* : mischief, waif, guttersnipe

(1) **urchin** child, (2) street **urchin**

The young boy was an **urchin** wandering the streets without a home.

## unobstructed

*adj.* not blocked or hindered; free from obstacles or impediments

*synonym* : clear, unrestricted, unblocked

(1) **unobstructed** airflow, (2) **unobstructed** path

The hiker enjoyed the **unobstructed** view from the top of the mountain.

## detonate

*v.* to explode or cause to explode; to set off a sudden or dramatic series of events

*synonym* : explode, blow up, ignite

(1) **detonate** a missile, (2) **detonate** a plan

The bomb squad had to **detonate** the suspicious package found at the train station.

## dwindle

*v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller

*synonym* : shrink, decrease, fade

(1) **dwindle** in importance, (2) **dwindle** to almost nothing

The crowds at the festival **dwindled** as the night went on.

## dissolve

*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

*synonym* : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

## ceremonial

*adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one

*synonym* : ritual, formal, solemn

(1) wear a **ceremonial** dress, (2) **ceremonial** speech

The wedding was a grand **ceremonial** occasion with many traditional elements.

## cactus

*n.* a plant that typically grows in dry regions and has spiny leaves, stems, and often vibrant flowers

*synonym* : desert plant, succulent, thornbush

(1) small **cactus**, (2) potted **cactus**

The hiker got pricked by a **cactus** needle while walking.

## valerian

*n.* a plant with fragrant pink or white flowers whose root is used in herbal medicine to calm anxiety and promote sleep; a medicinal preparation derived from this plant

*synonym*: herbaceous plant, all-heal

(1) **valerian** supplement, (2) **valerian** extract

The **valerian** root is often used as a natural sleep aid.

## hematite

*n.* a reddish or black mineral consisting of iron oxide, which is the main ore of iron

*synonym*: iron ore, bloodstone

(1) **hematite** deposits, (2) **hematite** mineral

The geology museum had an exhibit showcasing various specimens of **hematite**.

## seaweed

*n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

*synonym*: kelp, algae

(1) floating **seaweed**, (2) **seaweed** broth

She soaked **seaweed** in water until tender.

## carve

*v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

*synonym*: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

## gourd

*n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments

*synonym*: calabash, squash, pumpkin

(1) **gourd** soup, (2) decorative **gourd**

She carved a unique design into the **gourd** to create a decorative piece for her home.

## cinnabar

*n.* a bright red mineral consisting of mercuric sulfide, often used as a pigment in ancient art and traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine

*synonym* : vermilion, mercuric sulfide, red mineral

(1) **cinnabar** pigment, (2) **cinnabar** mines

The Chinese lacquerware's beautiful red hue was achieved using **cinnabar** powder.

## highland

*adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain

*synonym* : upland, plateau

(1) **highland** Indian, (2) **highland** agriculture

This region has a humid subtropical and **highland** climate.

## sprawl

*v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out

*synonym* : drape, spread out

(1) **sprawl** out luxuriously on the sofa, (2) **sprawl** for acres

The lush vegetation **sprawls** across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.

## foothill

*n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area

*synonym* : hillside, incline, slope

(1) **foothill** trail, (2) **foothill** region

The settlers built their homes in the **foothills** near the river.

## ambiguity

*n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

*synonym* : uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

## plaza

*n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

*synonym* : park, square, center

(1) main **plaza**, (2) memorial **plaza**

Three young men were busking in the shopping **plaza**.

## garb

*n.* clothing or dress, especially of a distinctive or special kind; apparel or attire

*synonym* : attire, outfit, costume

(1) ceremonial **garb**, (2) casual **garb**

I dressed up in medieval **garb** for the Renaissance fair.

## vertebra

*n.* a bone in the spine, or the spinal column forming the supporting structure of the spine and protecting the spinal cord

(1) cervical **vertebra**, (2) **vertebra** injury

He uses a **vertebra** traction machine for his treatment.

## llama

*n.* a domesticated South American mammal with a long, soft, woolly fleece and a long neck and legs, typically used for wool, meat, and as a pack animal

*synonym* : camelid, guanaco, alpaca

(1) domesticated **llama**, (2) **llama** farm

The **llama's** wool is highly prized for its softness and warmth.

## grind

*v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

*synonym* : mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

## chew

*v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it

*synonym* : masticate, crush, grind

(1) **chew** each word, (2) **chew** a stick of gum

My dog loves to **chew** on bones.

**coca**

*n.* a plant native to South America whose leaves are used in the production of cocaine and other stimulants; a drink made from the leaves of this plant

(1) **coca** paste, (2) **coca** tea

The chewing of **coca** leaves has been a tradition in some Andean cultures for centuries

## Session 2: Spelling

1. street ur\_\_\_n  
*n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines
2. decorative go\_\_d  
*n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments
3. a young bud of r\_\_d  
*n.* a tall, slender-leaved plant that grows in water; a thin strip of wood or metal that vibrates to produce sound in certain musical instruments such as oboe, clarinet, and saxophone
4. potted ca\_\_\_s  
*n.* a plant that typically grows in dry regions and has spiny leaves, stems, and often vibrant flowers
5. ca\_\_e a statue  
*v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
6. dw\_\_\_\_\_e in importance  
*v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
7. go\_\_d soup  
*n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments
8. se\_\_\_\_\_d broth  
*n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

ANSWERS: 1. urchin, 2. gourd, 3. reed, 4. cactus, 5. carve, 6. dwindle, 7. gourd, 8. seaweed



9. cervical ve\_\_\_\_ra *n.* a bone in the spine, or the spinal column forming the supporting structure of the spine and protecting the spinal cord
10. ll\_\_a farm *n.* a domesticated South American mammal with a long, soft, woolly fleece and a long neck and legs, typically used for wool, meat, and as a pack animal
11. de\_\_\_\_te a missile *v.* to explode or cause to explode; to set off a sudden or dramatic series of events
12. ca\_\_e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
13. dw\_\_\_\_e to almost nothing *v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
14. c\_\_w each word *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
15. gr\_\_d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
16. he\_\_\_\_te mineral *n.* a reddish or black mineral consisting of iron oxide, which is the main ore of iron
17. uno\_\_\_\_ted airflow *adj.* not blocked or hindered; free from obstacles or impediments
18. 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
19. ci\_\_\_\_ar pigment *n.* a bright red mineral consisting of mercuric sulfide, often used as a pigment in ancient art and traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine

ANSWERS: 9. vertebra, 10. llama, 11. detonate, 12. carve, 13. dwindle, 14. chew, 15. grind, 16. hematite, 17. unobstructed, 18. sham, 19. cinnabar

20. main pl\_\_a *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
21. to\_\_\_\_\_ng trees *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
22. edible sh\_\_\_\_\_sh *n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
23. c\_\_a paste *n.* a plant native to South America whose leaves are used in the production of cocaine and other stimulants; a drink made from the leaves of this plant
24. to\_\_\_\_\_ng mountain *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
25. fo\_\_\_\_\_ll trail *n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area
26. vi\_\_\_\_\_er community *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
27. du\_\_y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
28. ur\_\_\_n child *n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

ANSWERS: 20. plaza, 21. towering, 22. shellfish, 23. coca, 24. towering, 25. foothill, 26. villager, 27. dusty, 28. urchin



38. de\_\_\_\_te a plan *v.* to explode or cause to explode; to set off a sudden or dramatic series of events
39. hi\_\_\_\_nd agriculture *adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain
40. c\_\_w a stick of gum *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
41. di\_\_\_\_ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
42. casual g\_\_b *n.* clothing or dress, especially of a distinctive or special kind; apparel or attire
43. ci\_\_\_\_ar mines *n.* a bright red mineral consisting of mercuric sulfide, often used as a pigment in ancient art and traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine
44. uno\_\_\_\_ted path *adj.* not blocked or hindered; free from obstacles or impediments
45. people with fr\_\_n faces *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
46. r\_\_d instrument *n.* a tall, slender-leaved plant that grows in water; a thin strip of wood or metal that vibrates to produce sound in certain musical instruments such as oboe, clarinet, and saxophone
47. memorial pl\_\_a *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

ANSWERS: 38. detonate, 39. highland, 40. chew, 41. dissolve, 42. garb, 43. cinnabar, 44. unobstructed, 45. frown, 46. reed, 47. plaza

48. floating se\_\_\_\_\_d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
49. local vi\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
50. hi\_\_\_\_\_nd Indian *adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain
51. sp\_\_\_\_l out luxuriously on the sofa *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
52. sh\_\_\_\_\_sh allergy *n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
53. va\_\_\_\_\_an supplement *n.* a plant with fragrant pink or white flowers whose root is used in herbal medicine to calm anxiety and promote sleep; a medicinal preparation derived from this plant
54. he\_\_\_\_\_te deposits *n.* a reddish or black mineral consisting of iron oxide, which is the main ore of iron
55. ceremonial g\_\_b *n.* clothing or dress, especially of a distinctive or special kind; apparel or attire
56. wear a cer\_\_\_\_\_al dress *adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one
57. du\_\_y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

ANSWERS: 48. seaweed, 49. villager, 50. highland, 51. sprawl, 52. shellfish, 53. valerian, 54. hematite, 55. garb, 56. ceremonial, 57. dusty

58. a worried fr\_\_n                      *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
59. small ca\_\_\_s                        *n.* a plant that typically grows in dry regions and has spiny leaves, stems, and often vibrant flowers
60. va\_\_\_\_\_an extract              *n.* a plant with fragrant pink or white flowers whose root is used in herbal medicine to calm anxiety and promote sleep; a medicinal preparation derived from this plant
61. sp\_\_\_l for acres                    *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
62. domesticated ll\_\_a                *n.* a domesticated South American mammal with a long, soft, woolly fleece and a long neck and legs, typically used for wool, meat, and as a pack animal

ANSWERS: 58. frown, 59. cactus, 60. valerian, 61. sprawl, 62. llama

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I dressed up in medieval \_\_\_\_\_ for the Renaissance fair.  
*n.* clothing or dress, especially of a distinctive or special kind; apparel or attire
2. The political party \_\_\_\_\_ after much internal fighting.  
*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
3. \_\_\_\_\_ can cause allergic reactions in certain people.  
*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
4. The bomb squad had to \_\_\_\_\_ the suspicious package found at the train station.  
*v.* to explode or cause to explode; to set off a sudden or dramatic series of events
5. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of \_\_\_\_\_ debris.  
*adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
6. This statue is \_\_\_\_\_ from a single tree trunk.  
*v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
7. The Chinese lacquerware's beautiful red hue was achieved using \_\_\_\_\_ powder.  
*n.* a bright red mineral consisting of mercuric sulfide, often used as a pigment in ancient art and traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine

ANSWERS: 1. garb, 2. dissolved, 3. Shellfish, 4. detonate, 5. dusty, 6. carved, 7. cinnabar

8. The chewing of \_\_\_\_\_ leaves has been a tradition in some Andean cultures for centuries
- n.* a plant native to South America whose leaves are used in the production of cocaine and other stimulants; a drink made from the leaves of this plant
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.
- adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
10. The hiker enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_ view from the top of the mountain.
- adj.* not blocked or hindered; free from obstacles or impediments
11. The rural \_\_\_\_\_ were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
- n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
12. 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
13. The hiker got pricked by a \_\_\_\_\_ needle while walking.
- n.* a plant that typically grows in dry regions and has spiny leaves, stems, and often vibrant flowers
14. He uses a \_\_\_\_\_ traction machine for his treatment.
- n.* a bone in the spine, or the spinal column forming the supporting structure of the spine and protecting the spinal cord
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
- n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

ANSWERS: 8. coca, 9. towering, 10. unobstructed, 11. villagers, 12. sham, 13. cactus, 14. vertebra, 15. ambiguity



16. My dog loves to \_\_\_\_\_ on bones.

*v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it

17. The lush vegetation \_\_\_\_\_ across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.

*v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out

18. The settlers built their homes in the \_\_\_\_\_ near the river.

*n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area

19. This region has a humid subtropical and \_\_\_\_\_ climate.

*adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain

20. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the wind instrument needs to be replaced.

*n.* a tall, slender-leaved plant that grows in water; a thin strip of wood or metal that vibrates to produce sound in certain musical instruments such as oboe, clarinet, and saxophone

21. Thinking always made him \_\_\_\_\_.

*v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

22. The \_\_\_\_\_ root is often used as a natural sleep aid.

*n.* a plant with fragrant pink or white flowers whose root is used in herbal medicine to calm anxiety and promote sleep; a medicinal preparation derived from this plant

23. The young boy was an \_\_\_\_\_ wandering the streets without a home.

*n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

ANSWERS: 16. chew, 17. sprawls, 18. foothills, 19. highland, 20. reed, 21. frown, 22. valerian, 23. urchin

24. The geology museum had an exhibit showcasing various specimens of \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a reddish or black mineral consisting of iron oxide, which is the main ore of iron
25. She carved a unique design into the \_\_\_\_\_ to create a decorative piece for her home.
- n.* large fruit with a hard, often ornamentally-shaped shell that is commonly used for food, decoration, or musical instruments
26. The wedding was a grand \_\_\_\_\_ occasion with many traditional elements.
- adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one
27. Three young men were busking in the shopping \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries
28. The crowds at the festival \_\_\_\_\_ as the night went on.
- v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
29. She had to \_\_\_\_\_ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
- v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
30. She soaked \_\_\_\_\_ in water until tender.
- n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
31. The \_\_\_\_\_ wool is highly prized for its softness and warmth.
- n.* a domesticated South American mammal with a long, soft, woolly fleece and a long neck and legs, typically used for wool, meat, and as a pack animal

ANSWERS: 24. hematite, 25. gourd, 26. ceremonial, 27. plaza, 28. dwindled, 29. grind, 30. seaweed, 31. llama's

ANSWERS: