

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

William D. Desmond: The philosophy of cynicism |
TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/william_d_desmond_the_philosophy_of_cynicism

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

counterfeit

adj. made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic

synonym: fake, false, imitation

(1) **counterfeit** document, (2) **counterfeit** money

The company hired a team of experts to identify **counterfeit** products in their supply chain.

shadowy

adj. dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain

synonym: dim, dark, obscure

(1) **shadowy** doorway, (2) **shadowy** past

The **shadowy** figure in the corner of the room made me uneasy.

disgrace

n. a loss of respect, honor, or dignity; a state of shame or public humiliation; an action or behavior that is seen as immoral or unacceptable; (verb) to bring shame, dishonor, or discredit upon someone or something

synonym: shame, dishonor, humiliation

(1) **disgrace** our family name, (2) political **disgrace**

The government's failure to address the poverty issue was a **disgrace** to their leadership

exile

n. the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons

synonym: banishment, expulsion, deportation

(1) **exile** community, (2) political **exile**

The **exiled** king lived in poverty in a foreign country for many years.

societal

adj. relating to society or social relationships

synonym: social, communal, cultural

(1) **societal** norms, (2) **societal** expectations

The **societal** pressure to conform is strong in this community.

self-sufficient

adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others

synonym: independent, self-reliant, self-sustaining

(1) **self-sufficient** economy, (2) **self-sufficient** renewable energy

He was determined to become **self-sufficient** and not rely on anyone else.

cloak

n. a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise

synonym: cape, mantle, shroud

(1) **cloak** room, (2) hooded **cloak**

The magician seemed to disappear when he threw his **cloak** over himself.

knapsack

n. a backpack or bag with straps that is carried over the shoulders, often used for carrying camping or hiking supplies

synonym: backpack, rucksack, haversack

(1) leather **knapsack**, (2) army **knapsack**

The soldier wore a heavy **knapsack** filled with equipment and supplies.

forgo

v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to

synonym: abstain, renounce, sacrifice

(1) **forgo** dessert, (2) **forgo** the luxury

We had to **forgo** our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.

tease

v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

synonym: bully, annoy, provoke

(1) **tease** the children, (2) **tease** wool

This ad is intended to **tease** a competing product.

passerby

n. a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way

synonym: spectator, onlooker

(1) curious **passerby**, (2) **passerby** in the street

The police officer questioned the **passerby** for any information they had about the suspect

cynicism

n. a belief or attitude of distrust or skepticism, particularly concerning the motives or integrity of other people; an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest

synonym: distrust, skepticism, pessimism

(1) **cynicism** towards politics, (2) intellectual **cynicism**

His constant **cynicism** made it difficult for him to connect with others.

cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym: skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) **cynical** remarks, (2) **cynical** worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said

unless he saw evidence for himself.

carefree

adj. without worries or concerns; free from anxiety, responsibility, or constraints

synonym: light-hearted, carefree, easygoing

(1) **carefree** attitude, (2) **carefree** vacation

I miss the **carefree** days of my childhood when I didn't have to worry about anything.

adherent

n. a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something

synonym: follower, supporter, believer

(1) an **adherent** of the ideology, (2) non- **adherent** cell

He was a devout **adherent** of the religion.

satirist

n. a writer or artist who uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, often in the form of satire

synonym: ironist, humorist, caricaturist

(1) famous **satirist**, (2) political **satirist**

The **satirist's** biting commentary on corporate greed made him a hero among activists.

materialistic

adj. concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth

synonym: worldly, consumerist, acquisitive

(1) **materialistic** lifestyle, (2) **materialistic** values

Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a **materialistic** goal.

hypocrite

n. a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way

synonym:

pretender, two-faced, insincere

(1) environmental **hypocrite**, (2) religious **hypocrite**

She accused her boss of being a **hypocrite** for advocating for workers' rights while mistreating his employees.

preach

v. to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
synonym: expound, advocate, sermonize

(1) **preach** the gospel, (2) **preach** to the masses

The pastor **preached** about the importance of forgiveness.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

groundwork

n. the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something

synonym: foundation, base, cornerstone

(1) **groundwork** foundation, (2) **groundwork** study

They laid the **groundwork** for the new project by conducting thorough research.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym: bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

reimagine

v. to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way

synonym: re-conceptualize, re-envision, re-create

(1) **reimagine** the future, (2) **reimagine** the possibilities

The company is trying to **reimagine** its business model to stay competitive.

lantern

n. a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source

synonym : lamp, beacon, flashlight

(1) candle **lantern**, (2) a **lantern** in the dark

The paper-covered **lantern** glowed softly in the darkness.

proclaim

v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

synonym : announce, declare, trumpet

(1) **proclaim** victory, (2) **proclaim** law

The leader **proclaimed** a state of emergency in the country.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym : Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

platonic

adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual

synonym : nonphysical, nonsexual, spiritual

(1) **platonic** relationship, (2) **platonic** love

His relationship with her was completely **platonic**.

stubborn

adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

synonym : persistent, obstinate, determined

(1) **stubborn** attitude, (2) **stubborn** stains

He was so **stubborn** about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

hippie

n. a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values

synonym :

bohemian, beatnik, free spirit

(1) **hippie** lifestyle, (2) **hippie** music

The fashion of the **hippie** movement included unconventional clothing such as tie-dye shirts and bell-bottom jeans.

incarnation

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

synonym: embodiment, personification, avatar

(1) former **incarnation**, (2) **incarnation** of stupidity

The novel is an **incarnation** of the author's experiences and imagination.

quo

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

synonym: status, condition, state

(1) status **quo** politician, (2) **quo** warranto

The company has been successful in maintaining the status **quo**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. political ex__e | <i>n.</i> the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons |
| 2. artistic ren_____ce | <i>n.</i> a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music |
| 3. ca_____ee attitude | <i>adj.</i> without worries or concerns; free from anxiety, responsibility, or constraints |
| 4. intellectual cy_____sm | <i>n.</i> a belief or attitude of distrust or skepticism, particularly concerning the motives or integrity of other people; an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest |
| 5. pr_____im law | <i>v.</i> to announce or state something publicly and forcefully |
| 6. cy_____l worldview | <i>adj.</i> believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity |
| 7. before Ch____t | <i>n.</i> the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity |
| 8. a la_____n in the dark | <i>n.</i> a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source |
| 9. cor_____le officials | <i>adj.</i> capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral |

ANSWERS: 1. exile, 2. Renaissance, 3. carefree, 4. cynicism, 5. proclaim, 6. cynical, 7. Christ, 8. lantern, 9. corruptible

10. mat_____tic values *adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
11. cy_____sm towards politics *n.* a belief or attitude of distrust or skepticism, particularly concerning the motives or integrity of other people; an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest
12. pl_____ic love *adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
13. so_____al expectations *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
14. cy_____l remarks *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
15. ca_____ee vacation *adj.* without worries or concerns; free from anxiety, responsibility, or constraints
16. ex__e community *n.* the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons
17. former inc_____on *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
18. hi___e music *n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values

ANSWERS: 10. materialistic, 11. cynicism, 12. platonic, 13. societal, 14. cynical, 15. carefree, 16. exile, 17. incarnation, 18. hippie

19. fo__o dessert *v.* to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
20. cou_____it document *adj.* made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
21. religious hy_____te *n.* a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
22. political di_____ce *n.* a loss of respect, honor, or dignity; a state of shame or public humiliation; an action or behavior that is seen as immoral or unacceptable; (verb) to bring shame, dishonor, or discredit upon someone or something
23. inc_____on of stupidity *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
24. pr___h to the masses *v.* to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
25. cl__k room *n.* a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise
26. non-ad_____nt cell *n.* a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something

ANSWERS: 19. forgo, 20. counterfeit, 21. hypocrite, 22. disgrace, 23. incarnation, 24. preach, 25. cloak, 26. adherent

27. famous sa____st *n.* a writer or artist who uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, often in the form of satire
28. te__e wool *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
29. cou_____it money *adj.* made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
30. status q_o politician *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
31. di_____ce our family name *n.* a loss of respect, honor, or dignity; a state of shame or public humiliation; an action or behavior that is seen as immoral or unacceptable; (verb) to bring shame, dishonor, or discredit upon someone or something
32. gro_____rk foundation *n.* the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something
33. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
34. te__e the children *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

ANSWERS: 27. satirist, 28. tease, 29. counterfeit, 30. quo, 31. disgrace, 32. groundwork, 33. Renaissance, 34. tease

35. mat_____tic lifestyle *adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
36. candle la_____n *n.* a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source
37. environmental hy_____te *n.* a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
38. gro_____rk study *n.* the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something
39. pr____h the gospel *v.* to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
40. so_____al norms *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
41. an ad_____nt of the ideology *n.* a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something
42. sel_____ent renewable energy *adj.* able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others
43. re_____ne the future *v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
44. hi____e lifestyle *n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values

ANSWERS: 35. materialistic, 36. lantern, 37. hypocrite, 38. groundwork, 39. preach, 40. societal, 41. adherent, 42. self-sufficient, 43. reimagine, 44. hippie

45. re_____ne the possibilities *v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
46. army kn_____ck *n.* a backpack or bag with straps that is carried over the shoulders, often used for carrying camping or hiking supplies
47. teaching of Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
48. st_____rn stains *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
49. pl_____ic relationship *adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
50. leather kn_____ck *n.* a backpack or bag with straps that is carried over the shoulders, often used for carrying camping or hiking supplies
51. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
52. pa_____by in the street *n.* a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way
53. curious pa_____by *n.* a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way
54. sh_____y doorway *adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain

ANSWERS: 45. reimagine, 46. knapsack, 47. Christ, 48. stubborn, 49. platonic, 50. knapsack, 51. corruptible, 52. passerby, 53. passerby, 54. shadowy

55. fo__o the luxury *v.* to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
56. st_____rn attitude *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
57. sh_____y past *adj.* dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain
58. sel_____ent economy *adj.* able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others
59. hooded cl__k *n.* a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise
60. q_o warranto *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
61. pr_____im victory *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
62. political sa_____st *n.* a writer or artist who uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, often in the form of satire

ANSWERS: 55. forgo, 56. stubborn, 57. shadowy, 58. self-sufficient, 59. cloak, 60. quo, 61. proclaim, 62. satirist

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We had to _____ our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.
v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to

2. The _____ biting commentary on corporate greed made him a hero among activists.
n. a writer or artist who uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, often in the form of satire

3. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

4. He was a devout _____ of the religion.
n. a person who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas; the act or state of coming or being in close contact with something

5. The magician seemed to disappear when he threw his _____ over himself.
n. a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise

6. The pastor _____ about the importance of forgiveness.
v. to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience

7. He was determined to become _____ and not rely on anyone else.
adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others

ANSWERS: 1. forgo, 2. satirist's, 3. corruptible, 4. adherent, 5. cloak, 6. preached, 7. self-sufficient

8. The company is trying to _____ its business model to stay competitive.
v. to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
9. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.
n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
10. This ad is intended to _____ a competing product.
v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
11. I miss the _____ days of my childhood when I didn't have to worry about anything.
adj. without worries or concerns; free from anxiety, responsibility, or constraints
12. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
13. She accused her boss of being a _____ for advocating for workers' rights while mistreating his employees.
n. a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
14. They laid the _____ for the new project by conducting thorough research.
n. the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something
15. The police officer questioned the _____ for any information they had about the suspect
n. a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way

ANSWERS: 8. reimagine, 9. renaissance, 10. tease, 11. carefree, 12. Christmas, 13. hypocrite, 14. groundwork, 15. passerby

16. The company hired a team of experts to identify _____ products in their supply chain.

adj. made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic

17. His constant _____ made it difficult for him to connect with others.

n. a belief or attitude of distrust or skepticism, particularly concerning the motives or integrity of other people; an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest

18. The _____ figure in the corner of the room made me uneasy.

adj. dark, dim, or vague, as if obscured by shadows; mysterious or uncertain

19. He was very _____ and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

20. The _____ king lived in poverty in a foreign country for many years.

n. the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons

21. He was so _____ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

22. The _____ pressure to conform is strong in this community.

adj. relating to society or social relationships

ANSWERS: 16. counterfeit, 17. cynicism, 18. shadowy, 19. cynical, 20. exiled, 21. stubborn, 22. societal

23. The government's failure to address the poverty issue was a _____ to their leadership
- n.* a loss of respect, honor, or dignity; a state of shame or public humiliation; an action or behavior that is seen as immoral or unacceptable; (verb) to bring shame, dishonor, or discredit upon someone or something
24. His relationship with her was completely _____.
- adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
25. The paper-covered _____ glowed softly in the darkness.
- n.* a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source
26. The fashion of the _____ movement included unconventional clothing such as tie-dye shirts and bell-bottom jeans.
- n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values
27. Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a _____ goal.
- adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
28. The leader _____ a state of emergency in the country.
- v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
29. The company has been successful in maintaining the status ____.
- n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

ANSWERS: 23. disgrace, 24. platonic, 25. lantern, 26. hippie, 27. materialistic, 28. proclaimed, 29. quo

30. The novel is an _____ of the author's experiences and imagination.

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

31. The soldier wore a heavy _____ filled with equipment and supplies.

n. a backpack or bag with straps that is carried over the shoulders, often used for carrying camping or hiking supplies

ANSWERS: 30. incarnation, 31. knapsack