

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Brian A. Pavlac: Ugly History: Witch Hunts | TED Talk  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/brian\\_a\\_pavlac\\_ugly\\_history\\_witch\\_hunts](https://www.ted.com/talks/brian_a_pavlac_ugly_history_witch_hunts)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### germ

*n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

*synonym*: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

### innkeeper

*n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight

*synonym*: host, landlord, proprietor

(1) a woman **innkeeper**, (2) his role as **innkeeper**

The kind **innkeeper** greeted the travelers warmly and showed them to their rooms.

### accuse

*v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

*synonym*: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

### witchcraft

*n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to

describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices

*synonym*: sorcery, magic, wizardry

(1) **witchcraft** belief, (2) the power of **witchcraft**

Many people were accused of **witchcraft** during the Salem Witch Trials in the late 1600s.

## confession

*n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal

*synonym*: admission, avowal, acknowledgment

(1) a **confession** of guilt, (2) a **confession** of faith

The prisoner made a full **confession** and admitted to his crime.

## sporadically

*adv.* in an irregular manner; occasionally; now and then

*synonym*: irregularly, occasionally, intermittently

(1) occur **sporadically**, (2) take medication **sporadically**

The rain fell **sporadically** throughout the day.

## friar

*n.* a member of a religious community who lives a contemplative or ascetic lifestyle, often associated with the Roman Catholic or Anglican Church; a medieval European monk who traveled and preached in rural areas

*synonym*: monk, brother, religious

(1) **friar's** balsam, (2) Dominican **friar**

The **friar's** duties extended beyond the church and into the local community.

## inquisition

*n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy

*synonym*: investigation, examination, probe

(1) propose an **inquisition**, (2) submit him to an **inquisition**

The **inquisition** was a period of religious persecution in Europe.

## disapprove

*v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone

*synonym*: object, reject, condemn

(1) **disapprove** of the government, (2) publicly **disapprove**  
I **disapprove** of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.

## ruthless

*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

*synonym*: heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality  
The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

## prosecute

*v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

*synonym*: charge, sue, bring to trial

(1) **prosecute** criminal, (2) **prosecute** case

The attorney decided to **prosecute** the suspect for stealing from the store.

## spur

*n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something

*synonym*: encouragement, motivation, stimulus

(1) **spur** of the moment, (2) **spur** a momentum of economic growth

The threat of losing his job was the **spur** he needed to work harder.

## sermon

*n.* a speech or lecture given by a religious leader, especially a minister or priest, as part of a worship service

*synonym*: homily, discourse, lecture

(1) lengthy **sermon**, (2) a lay **sermon**

The preacher delivered a powerful **sermon** on the importance of forgiveness.

### **bewitch**

*v.* to attract or interest someone a lot so that they cannot think in a sensible way

*synonym*: charm, enchant, fascinate

(1) hold the charm to **bewitch**, (2) **bewitch** him into a frog  
Her beauty **bewitched** him.

### **misfortune**

*n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble

*synonym*: adversity, calamity, tragedy

(1) economic **misfortune**, (2) a string of **misfortunes**  
The flood was a great **misfortune** to the small town causing extensive damage.

### **stillborn**

*adj.* not having produced any significant or useful results; born dead or showing no signs of life at birth

*synonym*: lifeless, dead, abortive

(1) **stillborn** plan, (2) **stillborn** calf

The couple was devastated when they learned their baby was **stillborn**.

### **outcast**

*adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group;  
(noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

*synonym*: fugitive, friendless, vagabond

(1) discrimination against **outcast** people, (2) social **outcast**  
He was an **outcast** from the neighboring village.

### **detain**

*v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving

*synonym*: hold, keep, detainment

(1) **detain** a terrorist, (2) **detain** for investigation  
The police **detained** the suspect for questioning.

## convict

v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime;  
(noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

*synonym*: condemn, sentence, judge

(1) **convict** him of manslaughter, (2) **convict** in a jail

He was **convicted** on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.

## consciously

*adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner

*synonym*: intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**

He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

## scapegoat

v. to unfairly blame or punish someone for the misdeeds or mistakes of others, often to deflect attention or avoid accountability; (noun) a person or group that is unfairly blamed for the problems or misfortunes of others, typically to divert attention or responsibility from the actual cause

*synonym*: blame, accuse, fault

(1) **scapegoat** the new employee, (2) political **scapegoat**

Some politicians try to **scapegoat** specific groups of people to distract from their shortcomings.

## dissenter

n. someone who disagrees with or challenges the beliefs, opinions, or policies of a group or authority; one who speaks out or protests against a dominant ideology or viewpoint

*synonym*: protester, nonconformist, heretic

(1) political **dissenter**, (2) radical **dissenter**

The university welcomed and encouraged **dissenters** to challenge traditional ways of thinking.

## jurisprudence

n. the theory and practice of law; the study and interpretation of legal principles and legal systems

*synonym*: legal theory, laws, legal system

(1) **jurisprudence** system, (2) modern **jurisprudence**

The lawyer's understanding of **jurisprudence** helped her win

the case.

## demise

*n.* death or the end of something

*synonym* : death, passing, end

(1) **demise** of bureaucracy, (2) meet their **demise**

The sudden **demise** of the king was a shock to everyone and threw the kingdom into chaos.

## atrocious

*n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

*synonym* : evil, horror, iniquity

(1) commit **atrocious**, (2) cold-blooded **atrocious**

The **atrocious** of the war left many children orphaned.

## mobilize

*v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

*synonym* : activate, rally, marshal

(1) **mobilize** cooperation, (2) **mobilize** a stiff joint

The military **mobilized** troops to the border.

## dissent

*n.* possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted

*synonym* : discord, conflict, disagreement

(1) **dissent** opinion, (2) with no **dissent**

The dictatorship crushes all **dissent** severely.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. occur spo\_\_\_\_\_lly  
*adv.* in an irregular manner; occasionally; now and then
2. pr\_\_\_\_\_te case  
*v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
3. publicly dis\_\_\_\_\_ve  
*v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
4. cold-blooded at\_\_\_\_\_ty  
*n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
5. discrimination against ou\_\_\_\_\_t people  
*adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
6. st\_\_\_\_\_rn calf  
*adj.* not having produced any significant or useful results; born dead or showing no signs of life at birth
7. s\_\_r of the moment  
*n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
8. ru\_\_\_\_\_ss brutality  
*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
9. sc\_\_\_\_\_at the new employee  
*v.* to unfairly blame or punish someone for the misdeeds or mistakes of others, often to deflect attention or avoid accountability; (noun) a person or group that is unfairly blamed for the problems or misfortunes of others, typically to divert attention or responsibility from the actual cause

ANSWERS: 1. sporadically, 2. prosecute, 3. disapprove, 4. atrocity, 5. outcast, 6. stillborn, 7. spur, 8. ruthless, 9. scapegoat



10. political di\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* someone who disagrees with or challenges the beliefs, opinions, or policies of a group or authority; one who speaks out or protests against a dominant ideology or viewpoint
11. submit him to an inq\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
12. hold the charm to be \_\_\_\_\_h *v.* to attract or interest someone a lot so that they cannot think in a sensible way
13. de\_\_\_\_n a terrorist *v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
14. propose an inq\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
15. the power of wit\_\_\_\_\_ft *n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices
16. ac\_\_\_\_e his rudeness *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
17. de\_\_\_\_e of bureaucracy *n.* death or the end of something
18. con\_\_\_\_\_ly aware of a problem *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
19. st\_\_\_\_\_rn plan *adj.* not having produced any significant or useful results; born dead or showing no signs of life at birth
20. commit at\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

ANSWERS: 10. dissenter, 11. inquisition, 12. bewitch, 13. detain, 14. inquisition, 15. witchcraft, 16. accuse, 17. demise, 18. consciously, 19. stillborn, 20. atrocity

21. a con\_\_\_\_\_on of faith *n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
22. mo\_\_\_\_\_ze cooperation *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
23. Dominican fr\_\_\_r *n.* a member of a religious community who lives a contemplative or ascetic lifestyle, often associated with the Roman Catholic or Anglican Church; a medieval European monk who traveled and preached in rural areas
24. a con\_\_\_\_\_on of guilt *n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
25. mo\_\_\_\_\_ze a stiff joint *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
26. lengthy se\_\_\_\_n *n.* a speech or lecture given by a religious leader, especially a minister or priest, as part of a worship service
27. a string of mis\_\_\_\_\_nes *n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
28. radical di\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* someone who disagrees with or challenges the beliefs, opinions, or policies of a group or authority; one who speaks out or protests against a dominant ideology or viewpoint
29. with no di\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted

ANSWERS: 21. confession, 22. mobilize, 23. friar, 24. confession, 25. mobilize, 26. sermon, 27. misfortune, 28. dissenter, 29. dissent

30. take medication spo\_\_\_\_\_lly      *adv.* in an irregular manner; occasionally; now and then
31. co\_\_\_\_\_t him of manslaughter      *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
32. political sc\_\_\_\_\_at      *v.* to unfairly blame or punish someone for the misdeeds or mistakes of others, often to deflect attention or avoid accountability; (noun) a person or group that is unfairly blamed for the problems or misfortunes of others, typically to divert attention or responsibility from the actual cause
33. social ou\_\_\_\_\_t      *adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
34. de\_\_\_\_\_n for investigation      *v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
35. co\_\_\_\_\_t in a jail      *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
36. ac\_\_\_\_\_e each other      *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
37. his role as in \_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
38. wit\_\_\_\_\_ft belief      *n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices

ANSWERS: 30. sporadically, 31. convict, 32. scapegoat, 33. outcast, 34. detain, 35. convict, 36. accuse, 37. innkeeper, 38. witchcraft

39. a g\_\_m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
40. fr\_\_r's balsam *n.* a member of a religious community who lives a contemplative or ascetic lifestyle, often associated with the Roman Catholic or Anglican Church; a medieval European monk who traveled and preached in rural areas
41. economic mis\_\_\_\_\_ne *n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
42. dis\_\_\_\_\_ve of the government *v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
43. jur\_\_\_\_\_nce system *n.* the theory and practice of law; the study and interpretation of legal principles and legal systems
44. pr\_\_\_\_\_te criminal *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
45. antibiotic-resistant g\_\_m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
46. di\_\_\_\_\_t opinion *n.* possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted
47. modern jur\_\_\_\_\_nce *n.* the theory and practice of law; the study and interpretation of legal principles and legal systems

ANSWERS: 39. germ, 40. friar, 41. misfortune, 42. disapprove, 43. jurisprudence, 44. prosecute, 45. germ, 46. dissent, 47. jurisprudence

48. a lay se\_\_\_n *n.* a speech or lecture given by a religious leader, especially a minister or priest, as part of a worship service
49. s\_\_r a momentum of economic growth *n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
50. be\_\_\_\_\_h him into a frog *v.* to attract or interest someone a lot so that they cannot think in a sensible way
51. meet their de\_\_\_e *n.* death or the end of something
52. a woman in\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
53. act con\_\_\_\_\_ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
54. show ru\_\_\_\_\_ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

ANSWERS: 48. sermon, 49. spur, 50. bewitch, 51. demise, 52. innkeeper, 53. consciously, 54. ruthless

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ criticizes her in the publicity.  
*adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
2. Many people were accused of \_\_\_\_\_ during the Salem Witch Trials in the late 1600s.  
*n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices
3. The prisoner made a full \_\_\_\_\_ and admitted to his crime.  
*n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
4. The university welcomed and encouraged \_\_\_\_\_ to challenge traditional ways of thinking.  
*n.* someone who disagrees with or challenges the beliefs, opinions, or policies of a group or authority; one who speaks out or protests against a dominant ideology or viewpoint
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ duties extended beyond the church and into the local community.  
*n.* a member of a religious community who lives a contemplative or ascetic lifestyle, often associated with the Roman Catholic or Anglican Church; a medieval European monk who traveled and preached in rural areas
6. The dictator was known for his \_\_\_\_\_ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.  
*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

ANSWERS: 1. consciously, 2. witchcraft, 3. confession, 4. dissenters, 5. friar's, 6. ruthless

7. The preacher delivered a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ on the importance of forgiveness.  
*n.* a speech or lecture given by a religious leader, especially a minister or priest, as part of a worship service
8. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_ of the king was a shock to everyone and threw the kingdom into chaos.  
*n.* death or the end of something
9. The flood was a great \_\_\_\_\_ to the small town causing extensive damage.  
*n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
10. The threat of losing his job was the \_\_\_\_\_ he needed to work harder.  
*n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
11. Some politicians try to \_\_\_\_\_ specific groups of people to distract from their shortcomings.  
*v.* to unfairly blame or punish someone for the misdeeds or mistakes of others, often to deflect attention or avoid accountability; (noun) a person or group that is unfairly blamed for the problems or misfortunes of others, typically to divert attention or responsibility from the actual cause
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.  
*n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
13. The military \_\_\_\_\_ troops to the border.  
*v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 7. sermon, 8. demise, 9. misfortune, 10. spur, 11. scapegoat, 12. germ, 13. mobilized

14. The kind \_\_\_\_\_ greeted the travelers warmly and showed them to their rooms.  
*n.* a person who runs or owns an inn, a place for travelers to stay overnight
15. The lawyer's understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ helped her win the case.  
*n.* the theory and practice of law; the study and interpretation of legal principles and legal systems
16. I \_\_\_\_\_ of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.  
*v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
17. He was \_\_\_\_\_ on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.  
*v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
18. He was an \_\_\_\_\_ from the neighboring village.  
*adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
19. The witness \_\_\_\_\_ the defendant of committing the robbery.  
*v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a period of religious persecution in Europe.  
*n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
21. The rain fell \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the day.  
*adv.* in an irregular manner; occasionally; now and then

ANSWERS: 14. innkeeper, 15. jurisprudence, 16. disapprove, 17. convicted, 18. outcast, 19. accused, 20. inquisition, 21. sporadically



22. The dictatorship crushes all \_\_\_\_\_ severely.  
*n.* possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the war left many children orphaned.  
*n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
24. The attorney decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the suspect for stealing from the store.  
*v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
25. The police \_\_\_\_\_ the suspect for questioning.  
*v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
26. The couple was devastated when they learned their baby was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* not having produced any significant or useful results; born dead or showing no signs of life at birth
27. Her beauty \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
*v.* to attract or interest someone a lot so that they cannot think in a sensible way

ANSWERS: 22. dissent, 23. atrocity, 24. prosecute, 25. detained, 26. stillborn, 27. bewitched