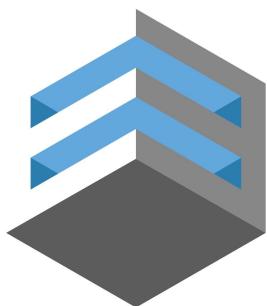


# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Paula Stone Williams and Jonathan Williams: The story of a parent's transition and a son's redemption | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/paula\\_stone\\_williams\\_and\\_jonathan\\_williams\\_the\\_story\\_of\\_a\\_parent\\_s\\_transition\\_and\\_a.son.s\\_redemption](https://www.ted.com/talks/paula_stone_williams_and_jonathan_williams_the_story_of_a_parent_s_transition_and_a.son.s_redemption)

### 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

### transgender

*adj.* relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth

*synonym:* non-binary

(1) **transgender** person, (2) **transgender** rights

Many **transgender** individuals face discrimination and marginalization in society.

### coworker

*n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization

*synonym:* colleague, peer, associate

(1) **coworker** relationship, (2) argue with a **coworker**

My ex- **coworker** and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

### confuse

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym:* confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

## estrangement

- n. the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends  
*synonym*: alienation, separation, detachment
- (1) **estrangement** from family, (2) emotional **estrangement**  
The **estrangement** between the two friends lasted for years.

## pickle

- n. vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation  
*synonym*: jam, predicament, quagmire
- (1) **pickle** a cucumber, (2) **pickle** barrel  
The **pickle** must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.

## pretension

- n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition  
*synonym*: presumption, pretense, affectation
- (1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**  
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

## mourning

- n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving  
*synonym*: grieving, sorrow, lamentation
- (1) **mourning** period, (2) **mourning** ritual  
She wore black clothing as a symbol of **mourning** for her grandmother.

## playbook

- n. a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action  
*synonym*: strategy, game plan, manual
- (1) **playbook** strategy, (2) political **playbook**  
The coach's **playbook** helped the team win the championship.

## lettuce

*n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor  
*synonym:* greens, salad, cress

(1) crisp **lettuce**, (2) wilted **lettuce**

I want a sandwich with extra **lettuce**, please.

## jean

*n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

*synonym:* denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

## disbelief

*n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real

*synonym:* doubt, mistrust, incredulity

(1) **disbelief** in the authority, (2) ask in **disbelief**

His reaction was one of complete **disbelief**.

## wreck

*n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

*synonym:* collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

## betray

*v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

*synonym:* fail, denounce, display

(1) **betray** a friend, (2) **betray** confidence

He felt **betrayed** when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

## bagel

*n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

*synonym:* roll, doughnut, bialy

(1) freshly baked **bagel**, (2) **bagel** with cream cheese

I prefer a toasty **bagel** with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

### 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.

### turnpike

*n.* a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access

*synonym:* toll road, expressway, freeway

(1) **turnpike** interchange, (2) **turnpike** exit

The toll booth on the **turnpike** caused a traffic backup.

### decompress

*v.* to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone

*synonym:* unload, relieve, unburden

(1) **decompress** data, (2) **decompress** an archive file

She **decompressed** after a long day at work with a yoga class.

### surrogate

*adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

*synonym:* substitute, replacement, deputy

(1) **surrogate** pregnancy, (2) **surrogate** decision

The **surrogate** mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.

### cling

*v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

*synonym:* stick, adhere, attach

(1) **cling** onto power, (2) **cling** tightly to the skin

He **clings** to the hope that he will find a job soon.

### jeopardize

*v.* to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone

*synonym*: endanger, imperil, risk

(1) **jeopardize** safety, (2) **jeopardize** reputation

His reckless behavior could **jeopardize** his chances of getting hired for the job.

## livelihood

*n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

*synonym*: occupation, living, income

(1) a means of **livelihood**, (2) **livelihood** assistance

I could no longer earn my own **livelihood**.

## straddle

*v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

*synonym*: strive, sit astride, span

(1) **straddle** a fence, (2) **straddle** a motorcycle

We had to **straddle** the fallen tree to cross the river.

## impassioned

*adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal

*synonym*: enthusiastic, fervent, ardent

(1) give an **impassioned** defense, (2) **impassioned** plea

He spoke with **impassioned** conviction about the need for change.

## abate

*v.* to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time

*synonym*: decrease, diminish, reduce

(1) **abate** a storm, (2) **abate** a crisis

He tried to **abate** his anger by taking deep breaths and counting to ten.

## subside

*v.* to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level

*synonym*: decrease, decline, diminish

(1) **subside** an argument, (2) **subside** after a short time

The storm **subsided**, leaving the town in peace.

### christen

- v. to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church

*synonym*: baptize, name, initiate

(1) **christen** a child, (2) **christen** the baby at the baptism  
The newborn baby was **christened** in a ceremony at the church.

### grandchild

- n. a child of someone's son or daughter

*synonym*: offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

### 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.

### determinant

- n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

*synonym*: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

### unleash

- v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

*synonym*: discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in pursuit of an enemy.

**twirl**

v. to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion

*synonym:* spin, swirl, rotate

(1) **twirl** a ribbon, (2) **twirl** a hula hoop

She **twirled** her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. pre _____ on to authority       | <i>n.</i> the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition  |
| 2. baseless pre _____ on           | <i>n.</i> the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition  |
| 3. co _____ e fantasy with reality | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand  |
| 4. give an imp _____ ed defense    | <i>adj.</i> having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal   |
| 5. tu _____ ke interchange         | <i>n.</i> a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access   |
| 6. un _____ h a hound              | <i>v.</i> to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled  |
| 7. st _____ le a fence             | <i>v.</i> to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests |

ANSWERS: 1. pretension, 2. pretension, 3. confuse, 4. impassioned, 5. turnpike, 6. unleash, 7. straddle

8. ch\_\_\_\_en the baby at the baptism      v. to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church
9. ask in di\_\_\_\_\_ef      n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
10. co\_\_\_\_e the listener      v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
11. 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
12. cl\_\_g onto power      v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
13. cl\_\_g tightly to the skin      v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
14. st\_\_\_\_le a motorcycle      v. to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests
15. the house was a wr\_\_k      n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
16. su\_\_\_\_te decision      adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

ANSWERS: 8. christen, 9. disbelief, 10. confuse, 11. foothill, 12. cling, 13. cling, 14. straddle, 15. wreck, 16. surrogate

17. su____e an argument	v. to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
18. gra____ld-grandparent relationship	n. a child of someone's son or daughter
19. un____h her anger	v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
20. wilted le____e	n. a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
21. su____te pregnancy	adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
22. dec____ss an archive file	v. to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone
23. j__n denim	n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
24. liv____od assistance	n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
25. fo____ll region	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. jeo____ze reputation	v. to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone
27. be___y confidence	v. to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

ANSWERS: 17. subside, 18. grandchild, 19. unleash, 20. lettuce, 21. surrogate, 22. decompress, 23. jean, 24. livelihood, 25. foothill, 26. jeopardize, 27. betray

28. imp\_\_\_\_\_ed plea      *adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal
29. pi\_\_\_\_e a cucumber      *n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
30. pl\_\_\_\_ok strategy      *n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
31. pi\_\_\_\_e barrel      *n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
32. tw\_\_l a hula hoop      *v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
33. gra\_\_\_\_ld development      *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
34. tw\_\_l a ribbon      *v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
35. freshly baked ba\_\_l      *n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices
36. mo\_\_\_\_ng period      *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

ANSWERS: 28. impassioned, 29. pickle, 30. playbook, 31. pickle, 32. twirl, 33. grandchild, 34. twirl, 35. bagel, 36. mourning

37. act con_____ly	<i>adv.</i> with awareness; in a deliberate manner
38. a j__n skirt	<i>n.</i> a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
39. be___y a friend	<i>v.</i> to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
40. dec_____ss data	<i>v.</i> to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone
41. a means of liv_____od	<i>n.</i> a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
42. political pl____ok	<i>n.</i> a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
43. environmental det_____nt	<i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
44. crisp le____e	<i>n.</i> a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
45. co____er relationship	<i>n.</i> a person who works with another in the same company or organization
46. su____e after a short time	<i>v.</i> to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
47. a det_____nt of crop yields	<i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 37. consciously, 38. jean, 39. betray, 40. decompress, 41. livelihood, 42. playbook, 43. determinant, 44. lettuce, 45. coworker, 46. subside, 47. determinant

48. jeo\_\_\_\_\_ze safety

49. a worthless wr\_\_k

50. argue with a co\_\_\_\_er

51. ch\_\_\_\_en a child

52. con\_\_\_\_\_ly aware of a problem

53. tra\_\_\_\_\_er person

54. est\_\_\_\_\_ent from family

55. di\_\_\_\_\_ef in the authority

56. ba\_\_l with cream cheese

57. ab\_\_e a crisis

58. mo\_\_\_\_ng ritual

v. to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization

v. to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church

adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

adj. relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth

n. the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends

n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real

n. a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

v. to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time

n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

ANSWERS: 48. jeopardize, 49. wreck, 50. coworker, 51. christen, 52. consciously, 53. transgender, 54. estrangement, 55. disbelief, 56. bagel, 57. abate, 58. mourning

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|---------------------------|--|
| 59. tu____ke exit         | <i>n.</i> a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access |
| 60. ab__e a storm         | <i>v.</i> to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time                          |
| 61. tra_____er rights     | <i>adj.</i> relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth       |
| 62. emotional est_____ent | <i>n.</i> the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends                           |

ANSWERS: 59. turnpike, 60. abate, 61. transgender, 62. estrangement

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I could no longer earn my own \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
  
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.  
*v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
  
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ after a long day at work with a yoga class.  
*v.* to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone
  
4. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
  
5. She wore her favorite pair of \_\_\_\_\_ to the party.  
*n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
  
6. The coach's \_\_\_\_\_ helped the team win the championship.  
*n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
  
7. The newborn baby was \_\_\_\_\_ in a ceremony at the church.  
*v.* to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church
  
8. His \_\_\_\_\_ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.  
*n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

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ANSWERS: 1. livelihood, 2. twirled, 3. decompressed, 4. confused, 5. jeans, 6. playbook, 7. christened, 8. pretensions

9. The toll booth on the \_\_\_\_\_ caused a traffic backup.  
*n.* a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access
10. She wore black clothing as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ for her grandmother.  
*n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.  
*adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.  
*n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
13. He \_\_\_\_\_ criticizes her in the publicity.  
*adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
14. His reaction was one of complete \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
15. Many \_\_\_\_\_ individuals face discrimination and marginalization in society.  
*adj.* relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth
16. He felt \_\_\_\_\_ when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.  
*v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

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ANSWERS: 9. turnpike, 10. mourning, 11. surrogate, 12. pickle, 13. consciously, 14. disbelief, 15. transgender, 16. betrayed

17. He \_\_\_\_\_ to the hope that he will find a job soon.  
v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
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. One \_\_\_\_\_ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.  
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two friends lasted for years.  
n. the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends
21. The general was still reluctant to \_\_\_\_\_ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.  
v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
22. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his anger by taking deep breaths and counting to ten.  
v. to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time
23. The storm \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the town in peace.  
v. to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
24. The grandparents take care of their \_\_\_\_\_ while the parents are at work.  
n. a child of someone's son or daughter

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ANSWERS: 17. clings, 18. foothills, 19. determinant, 20. estrangement, 21. unleash, 22. abate, 23. subsided, 24. grandchild

25. I want a sandwich with extra \_\_\_\_\_ please.

- n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor

26. He spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ conviction about the need for change.

- adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal

27. His reckless behavior could \_\_\_\_\_ his chances of getting hired for the job.

- v.* to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone

28. The divers accidentally discovered a \_\_\_\_\_ on the ocean floor.

- n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

29. We had to \_\_\_\_\_ the fallen tree to cross the river.

- v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

30. My ex-\_\_\_\_\_ and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

- n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization

31. I prefer a toasty \_\_\_\_\_ with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

- n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

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ANSWERS: 25. lettuce, 26. impassioned, 27. jeopardize, 28. wreck, 29. straddle, 30. coworker, 31. bagel