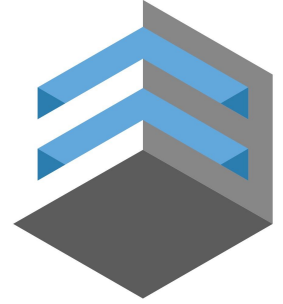


# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Brian Olson: How an algorithm can fight election bias so every vote counts | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/brian\\_olson\\_how\\_an\\_algorithm\\_can\\_fight\\_election\\_bias\\_so\\_every\\_vote\\_counts](https://www.ted.com/talks/brian_olson_how_an_algorithm_can_fight_election_bias_so_every_vote_counts)

### 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

### gerrymander

*v.* to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral district or voting constituency to gain political advantage for a particular party or group

*synonym* : manipulate, tamper, falsify

(1) **gerrymander** the voting boundaries, (2) **gerrymander** the upcoming election

Politicians often **gerrymander** electoral districts in their favor.

### diminish

*v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

*synonym* : decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

### monstrous

*adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance

*synonym* : grotesque, huge, deformed

(1) a **monstrous** iceberg, (2) **monstrous** behavior

The giant wave was **monstrous** and destroyed the small boat.

### salamander

*n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

*synonym* : amphibian

(1) terrestrial **salamander**, (2) semiaquatic **salamander**

We plan to raise a giant **salamander** as a pet.

## challenger

*n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge

*synonym* : contender, rival, contestant

(1) **challenger** brand, (2) political **challenger**

The **challenger** in the boxing match put up a good fight.

## extremist

*n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

*synonym* : radical, fanatic, zealot

(1) **extremist** political views, (2) radical **extremist**

The **extremist** group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.

## upstart

*n.* a person who has recently risen to a position of power, especially one who behaves arrogantly; an ambitious or presumptuous newcomer

*synonym* : parvenu, newbie, newcomer

(1) **upstart** company, (2) ambitious **upstart**

The **upstart** politician made a splash in the election, challenging the established incumbents.

## aisle

*n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

*synonym* : corridor, passageway, gangway

(1) **aisle** seat, (2) the center **aisle** of a church

She walked down the **aisle** to the front of the church.

## 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.

## **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.

## **hasty**

*adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

*synonym* : rushed, impulsive, prompt

(1) a **hasty** temper, (2) **hasty** commitment

The **hasty** conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.

## **disarray**

*n.* the state of disorganization or untidiness in a situation or place; a mental state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior

*synonym* : chaos, mess, confusion

(1) fall into **disarray**, (2) with her clothes in **disarray** .

The country's economic policies have led to political **disarray**.

## **telltale**

*adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

*synonym* : revealing, indicative, suggestive

(1) **telltale** evidence, (2) **telltale** heart

The **telltale** signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.

## **distort**

*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

*synonym* : fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy  
Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

## 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.

## republican

n. a person who supports or advocates for a particular form of government, typically one that has an elected head of state rather than a monarch; a member or supporter of the Republican Party in the United States

*synonym*: conservative, right-winger, rightist

(1) **republican** ideology, (2) **Republican** party

Many **republican** lawmakers are advocating for stricter immigration policies.

## overturn

v. to turn something upside down; to upset

*synonym*: flip over, upset, topple

(1) **overturn** a decision, (2) **overturn** a table

The court **overturned** the original verdict.

## contort

v. to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape

*synonym*: deform, disfigure, distort

(1) **contort** my limbs, (2) **contort** the face

He **contorted** his smile with anger coming from his gut.

## tentacle

n. a flexible, mobile, and long arm-like organ used for feeling and holding things, catching food, or moving

(1) a squid's **tentacle**, (2) posterior **tentacle**

The police caught the fugitive criminal in the **tentacles** of an expanded investigation.

## runaround

*n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance

*synonym*: excuse, evasion, avoidance

(1) **runaround** excuses, (2) get a bureaucratic **runaround**

My boss has been giving me the **runaround** about my promotion for months.

## drawback

*n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

*synonym*: disadvantage, defect, weakness

(1) the **drawback** of his method, (2) one of the main **drawbacks**

He pointed out all the **drawbacks** to our plan.

## bureaucracy

*n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

*synonym*: administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

## crank

*n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person

*synonym*: eccentric, oddball, kook

(1) **crank** handle, (2) **crank** caller

The fishing reel had a **crank** that made it easy to reel in the catch.

## tinker

*v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

*synonym*: fiddle, play, fix

(1) **tinker** with the bill, (2) **tinker** with the settings  
He spent the afternoon **tinkering** with his car engine.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. co\_\_\_\_t the face      *v.* to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape
2. ai\_\_e seat      *n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
3. semiaquatic sal\_\_\_\_er      *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
4. ger\_\_\_\_er the upcoming election      *v.* to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral district or voting constituency to gain political advantage for a particular party or group
5. cy\_\_\_\_l remarks      *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
6. radical ex\_\_\_\_st      *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
7. cr\_\_k handle      *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
8. di\_\_\_\_sh swelling      *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. contort, 2. aisle, 3. salamander, 4. gerrymander, 5. cynical, 6. extremist, 7. crank, 8. diminish

9. the center ai\_\_e of a church      *n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
10. ov\_\_\_\_\_rn a decision      *v.* to turn something upside down; to upset
11. 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
12. te\_\_\_\_\_le heart      *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
13. posterior te\_\_\_\_\_le      *n.* a flexible, mobile, and long arm-like organ used for feeling and holding things, catching food, or moving
14. ru\_\_\_\_\_nd excuses      *n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance
15. ov\_\_\_\_\_rn a table      *v.* to turn something upside down; to upset
16. ti\_\_\_r with the bill      *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
17. cr\_\_k caller      *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person

ANSWERS: 9. aisle, 10. overturn, 11. grind, 12. telltale, 13. tentacle, 14. runaround, 15. overturn, 16. tinker, 17. crank



18. terrestrial sal\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
19. ex\_\_\_\_\_st political views *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
20. fall into di\_\_\_\_\_ay *n.* the state of disorganization or untidiness in a situation or place; a mental state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior
21. with her clothes in di\_\_\_\_\_ay. *n.* the state of disorganization or untidiness in a situation or place; a mental state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior
22. a mo\_\_\_\_\_us iceberg *adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
23. cy\_\_\_\_\_l worldview *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
24. di\_\_\_\_\_t the facts *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
25. cha\_\_\_\_\_er brand *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
26. ha\_\_y commitment *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

ANSWERS: 18. salamander, 19. extremist, 20. disarray, 21. disarray, 22. monstrous, 23. cynical, 24. distort, 25. challenger, 26. hasty

27. di\_\_\_\_sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
28. one of the main dr\_\_\_\_cks *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
29. di\_\_\_\_t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
30. political cha\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
31. rep\_\_\_\_an ideology *n.* a person who supports or advocates for a particular form of government, typically one that has an elected head of state rather than a monarch; a member or supporter of the Republican Party in the United States
32. mo\_\_\_\_us behavior *adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
33. a ha\_\_y temper *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
34. Rep\_\_\_\_an party *n.* a person who supports or advocates for a particular form of government, typically one that has an elected head of state rather than a monarch; a member or supporter of the Republican Party in the United States
35. co\_\_\_\_t my limbs *v.* to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape

ANSWERS: 27. diminish, 28. drawback, 29. distort, 30. challenger, 31. republican, 32. monstrous, 33. hasty, 34. republican, 35. contort

36. up\_\_\_\_t company *n.* a person who has recently risen to a position of power, especially one who behaves arrogantly; an ambitious or presumptuous newcomer
37. arbitrary bur\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
38. ti\_\_\_\_r with the settings *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
39. sp\_\_\_\_l out luxuriously on the sofa *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
40. government bur\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
41. a squid's te\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* a flexible, mobile, and long arm-like organ used for feeling and holding things, catching food, or moving
42. get a bureaucratic ru\_\_\_\_\_nd *n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance
43. te\_\_\_\_\_le evidence *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

ANSWERS: 36. upstart, 37. bureaucracy, 38. tinker, 39. sprawl, 40. bureaucracy, 41. tentacle, 42. runaround, 43. telltale

44. the dr\_\_\_\_ck of his method *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
45. gr\_\_d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
46. ger\_\_\_\_er the voting boundaries *v.* to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral district or voting constituency to gain political advantage for a particular party or group
47. sp\_\_\_l for acres *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
48. ambitious up\_\_\_\_t *n.* a person who has recently risen to a position of power, especially one who behaves arrogantly; an ambitious or presumptuous newcomer

ANSWERS: 44. drawback, 45. grind, 46. gerrymander, 47. sprawl, 48. upstart

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the boxing match put up a good fight.  
*n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
  
2. Economists contend that taxes \_\_\_\_\_ consumer behavior in general.  
*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
  
3. The court \_\_\_\_\_ the original verdict.  
*v.* to turn something upside down; to upset
  
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.  
*n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
  
5. The police caught the fugitive criminal in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an expanded investigation.  
*n.* a flexible, mobile, and long arm-like organ used for feeling and holding things, catching food, or moving
  
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.  
*adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
  
7. The lush vegetation \_\_\_\_\_ across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.  
*v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out

ANSWERS: 1. challenger, 2. distort, 3. overturned, 4. extremist, 5. tentacles, 6. telltale, 7. sprawls

8. The country's economic policies have led to political \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the state of disorganization or untidiness in a situation or place; a mental state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior
9. The giant wave was \_\_\_\_\_ and destroyed the small boat.
- adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
10. The bumbling \_\_\_\_\_ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.
- n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.
- adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
12. He spent the afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ with his car engine.
- v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
13. 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
14. He \_\_\_\_\_ his smile with anger coming from his gut.
- v.* to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape
15. Politicians often \_\_\_\_\_ electoral districts in their favor.
- v.* to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral district or voting constituency to gain political advantage for a particular party or group

ANSWERS: 8. disarray, 9. monstrous, 10. bureaucracy, 11. hasty, 12. tinkering, 13. cynical, 14. contorted, 15. gerrymander

16. The fishing reel had a \_\_\_\_\_ that made it easy to reel in the catch.
- n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
17. She walked down the \_\_\_\_\_ to the front of the church.
- n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
18. We plan to raise a giant \_\_\_\_\_ as a pet.
- n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
19. Many \_\_\_\_\_ lawmakers are advocating for stricter immigration policies.
- n.* a person who supports or advocates for a particular form of government, typically one that has an elected head of state rather than a monarch; a member or supporter of the Republican Party in the United States
20. He pointed out all the \_\_\_\_\_ to our plan.
- n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
21. 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
22. The \_\_\_\_\_ politician made a splash in the election, challenging the established incumbents.
- n.* a person who has recently risen to a position of power, especially one who behaves arrogantly; an ambitious or presumptuous newcomer
23. My boss has been giving me the \_\_\_\_\_ about my promotion for months.
- n.* a series of evasive or misleading answers or actions often used to evade responsibility or avoid giving a direct answer; a frustrating and time-consuming experience of being led from one place or person to another in search of information or assistance

ANSWERS: 16. crank, 17. aisle, 18. salamander, 19. republican, 20. drawbacks, 21.

grind, 22. upstart, 23. runaround



24. As people get old, their energies may \_\_\_\_\_.

- v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

ANSWERS: 24. diminish