

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christoph Niemann: You are fluent in this language  
(and don't even know it) | TED Talk

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e\\_fluent\\_in\\_this\\_language\\_and\\_don\\_t\\_even\\_know\\_it](https://www.ted.com/talks/christoph_niemann_you_are_fluent_in_this_language_and_don_t_even_know_it)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### daunting

*adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something

*synonym* : intimidating, stunning, disheartening

(1) face the **daunting** reality, (2) seem like a **daunting** task  
My homework was **daunting** and complex, but it was also intriguing.

### fluent

*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

*synonym* : eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

### decipher

*v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

*synonym* : interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message

He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

### intellect

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

*synonym* : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

## **evoke**

*v.* to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind

*synonym*: arouse, raise, inspire

(1) **evoke** a sense of awe, (2) **evoke** sympathy

This movie is likely to **evoke** strong emotions in the viewer.

## **uneasy**

*adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

*synonym*: anxious, troubled, nervous

(1) have **uneasy** eyes, (2) **uneasy** relationship

He was **uneasy** about the situation and didn't know what to do.

## **downright**

*adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely

*synonym*: absolute, utter, complete

(1) **downright** nonsense, (2) **downright** impossible

It was a **downright** lie that he would attend the event.

## **bliss**

*n.* extreme happiness or joy

*synonym*: delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

## **bogus**

*adj.* false or imitation; not genuine

*synonym*: fake, fraudulent, counterfeit

(1) **bogus** excuse, (2) **bogus** charities

He accused the company of using **bogus** advertising claims to sell its products.

## **snug**

*adj.* comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design

*synonym*: cozy, comfortable, kempt

(1) **snug** blanket, (2) **snug** little house

The baby was fast asleep in his **snug** cot, swaddled in soft, warm blankets.

## **inexplicable**

*adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling

*synonym*: incomprehensible, mysterious, unaccountable

(1) **inexplicable** event, (2) **inexplicable** decision

The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was **inexplicable**.

## **rot**

*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

*synonym*: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

## **etch**

*v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern

*synonym*: engrave, inscribe, carve

(1) **etch** a metal plate, (2) **etch** a design into wood

He used a sharp tool to **etch** his initials onto the metal.

## **owl**

*n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

*synonym*: raptor, bird of prey, nocturnal bird

(1) a night **owl**, (2) an **owl** hooted

The snowy **owl** is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

## **animate**

*v.* to make something full of interest and energy

*synonym*: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

## storytelling

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

*synonym*: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

## daring

*adj.* brave and taking risks

*synonym*: audacious, bold, venturesome

(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face

Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

## rudimentary

*adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

*synonym*: essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

## creditor

*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

## cliche

*n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

*synonym*: truism, platitude, stereotype

(1) **cliche** plot, (2) age-old **cliche**

Using the same **cliche** phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

## morph

*v.* to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another

*synonym*: alter, modify, transform

(1) **morph** into a different shape, (2) **morph** into something entirely different

This company **morphed** into an enterprise company.

## hazmat

*n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment

*synonym* : hazardous material, toxic substances

(1) **hazmat** material, (2) **hazmat** incident

The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their **hazmat** suits.

## serene

*adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries

*synonym* : calm, peaceful, tranquil

(1) **serene** landscape, (2) a **serene** atmosphere

The **serene** sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.

## catastrophe

*n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

*synonym* : disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

## proverb

*n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience

*synonym* : adage, saying, maxim

(1) a hackneyed **proverb**, (2) ancient **proverb**

The famous **proverb** "actions speak louder than words" reminds us to focus on deeds instead of words.

## decode

*v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

*synonym* : decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

**blur** *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

*synonym*: smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

**poetic** *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

*synonym*: literary, verse-like, rhythmic

(1) **poetic** genius, (2) **poetic** justice

The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a **poetic** scene from a movie.

**unearth** *v.* to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown

*synonym*: discover, uncover, expose

(1) **unearth** burial mound, (2) **unearth** a mystery

The detective **unearthed** a critical clue that led to the suspect's arrest.

**empathy** *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

*synonym*: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

**Empathy** is also necessary to understand history.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. e\_\_h a metal plate  
*v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
2. motion b\_\_r  
*n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
3. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing  
*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
4. un\_\_\_y relationship  
*adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
5. bo\_\_s excuse  
*adj.* false or imitation; not genuine
6. ev\_\_e a sense of awe  
*v.* to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
7. ultimate bl\_\_s  
*n.* extreme happiness or joy
8. cat\_\_\_\_\_he risk management  
*n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
9. a rud\_\_\_\_\_ry plant  
*adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
10. b\_\_r image  
*n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
11. the cr\_\_\_\_\_or's claims  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 1. etch, 2. blur, 3. storytelling, 4. uneasy, 5. bogus, 6. evoke, 7. bliss, 8. catastrophe, 9. rudimentary, 10. blur, 11. creditor

12. r\_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
13. face the da\_\_\_\_ng reality *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
14. do\_\_\_\_\_ht nonsense *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
15. s\_\_g blanket *adj.* comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design
16. e\_\_h a design into wood *v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
17. ha\_\_\_t incident *n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
18. se\_\_\_e landscape *adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
19. ine\_\_\_\_\_ble decision *adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
20. cl\_\_\_e plot *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
21. bo\_\_s charities *adj.* false or imitation; not genuine

ANSWERS: 12. rot, 13. daunting, 14. downright, 15. snug, 16. etch, 17. hazmat, 18. serene, 19. inexplicable, 20. cliché, 21. bogus



22. do\_\_\_\_\_ht impossible *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
23. da\_\_\_g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
24. seem like a da\_\_\_\_\_ng task *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
25. human in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. s\_\_\_g little house *adj.* comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design
27. sto\_\_\_\_\_ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
28. an\_\_\_\_\_e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
29. un\_\_\_\_\_h burial mound *v.* to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown
30. bankrupt cr\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
31. begin to r\_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
32. a night o\_l *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

ANSWERS: 22. downright, 23. daring, 24. daunting, 25. intellect, 26. snug, 27. storytelling, 28. animate, 29. unearth, 30. creditor, 31. rot, 32. owl

33. age-old cl\_\_\_e *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
34. enrich my in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
35. ancient pr\_\_\_\_\_b *n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
36. rud\_\_\_\_\_ry understanding *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
37. ev\_\_e sympathy *v.* to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
38. po\_\_\_c justice *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
39. avoid climate cat\_\_\_\_\_he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
40. de\_\_\_e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
41. de\_\_\_\_\_er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
42. in a fl\_\_\_t tone *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

ANSWERS: 33. cliché, 34. intellect, 35. proverb, 36. rudimentary, 37. evoke, 38. poetic, 39. catastrophe, 40. decode, 41. decipher, 42. fluent



54. an\_\_\_\_e his soul                      *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
55. a hackneyed pr\_\_\_\_b                *n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
56. make a da\_\_\_\_g face                *adj.* brave and taking risks
57. an o\_l hooted                        *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
58. ha\_\_\_\_t material                    *n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
59. a se\_\_\_\_e atmosphere              *adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
60. fl\_\_\_\_t Chinese                      *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

ANSWERS: 54. animate, 55. proverb, 56. daring, 57. owl, 58. hazmat, 59. serene, 60. fluent

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My homework was \_\_\_\_\_ and complex, but it was also intriguing.  
*adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
2. This company \_\_\_\_\_ into an enterprise company.  
*v.* to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
3. I asked the lawyer to initiate \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
4. He used a sharp tool to \_\_\_\_\_ his initials onto the metal.  
*v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
5. He was \_\_\_\_\_ about the situation and didn't know what to do.  
*adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
6. The famous \_\_\_\_\_ "actions speak louder than words" reminds us to focus on deeds instead of words.  
*n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
7. The snowy \_\_\_\_\_ is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.  
*n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

ANSWERS: 1. daunting, 2. morphed, 3. creditor, 4. etch, 5. uneasy, 6. proverb, 7. owl

8. The baby was fast asleep in his \_\_\_\_\_ cot, swaddled in soft, warm blankets.  
*adj.* comfortably warm and cozy; fitting tightly and comfortably; compact and efficient in design
9. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.  
*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
10. The software could \_\_\_\_\_ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.  
*v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
11. Her choices become increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ and creative.  
*adj.* brave and taking risks
12. The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their \_\_\_\_\_ suits.  
*n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is also necessary to understand history.  
*n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
14. The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a \_\_\_\_\_ scene from a movie.  
*adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
15. It was a \_\_\_\_\_ lie that he would attend the event.  
*adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely

ANSWERS: 8. snug, 9. storytelling, 10. decode, 11. daring, 12. hazmat, 13. Empathy, 14. poetic, 15. downright

16. He spent hours trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the ancient text.  
*v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
17. The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
18. The lack of funds has resulted in a \_\_\_\_\_ for our university system.  
*n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
19. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a \_\_\_\_\_ of colors and shapes.  
*n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
20. The first two years of her marriage were sheer \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* extreme happiness or joy
21. This movie is likely to \_\_\_\_\_ strong emotions in the viewer.  
*v.* to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
22. The detective \_\_\_\_\_ a critical clue that led to the suspect's arrest.  
*v.* to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown
23. The positive attitude of the supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ the discussion.  
*v.* to make something full of interest and energy
24. The \_\_\_\_\_ sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.  
*adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries

ANSWERS: 16. decipher, 17. inexplicable, 18. catastrophe, 19. blur, 20. bliss, 21. evoke, 22. unearthed, 23. animated, 24. serene

25. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.  
*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. He has only a \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of this topic.  
*adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
27. Using the same \_\_\_\_\_ phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.  
*n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
28. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
29. She learned five languages but is only \_\_\_\_\_ in two of them.  
*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
30. He accused the company of using \_\_\_\_\_ advertising claims to sell its products.  
*adj.* false or imitation; not genuine

ANSWERS: 25. intellect, 26. rudimentary, 27. cliché, 28. rot, 29. fluent, 30. bogus