# **Englist.me**

# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

A.J. Jacobs: My journey to thank all the people responsible for my morning coffee | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/a\_j\_jacobs\_my\_journey\_to \_thank\_all\_the\_people\_responsible\_for\_my\_morning \_coffee



# **Advanced Words Only**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

## boast

 to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

synonym: show off, brag, bluster

(1) **boast** of his success, (2) **boast** a long history This town **boasts** a national park.

## annoy

- v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly synonym: aggravate, irritate, unsettle
- (1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

## predator

- n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on otherssynonym: vulture, bloodsucker
- (1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

## thanksgiving

n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year *synonym*: gratitude, appreciation, recognition

- (1) **thanksgiving** traditions, (2) **thanksgiving** parade My family gathers together every year for **thanksgiving** dinner.
- a person who believes that it is impossible to know whether there is a god

synonym: skeptic, doubter, unbeliever

- (1) **agnostic** world-view, (2) **agnostic** position Her scientific background led her to be **agnostic** about the existence of a higher power.
- to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym: surface, coat, cover

- (1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.
- a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen

synonym: tar, road surface, blacktop

- asphalt pavement, (2) asphalt driveway
   The road crew was laying fresh asphalt on the highway.
- n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

*synonym*: digger, excavator, miner

(1) miner strike, (2) miner industry

The coal **miner** worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

agnostic

pave

asphalt

miner

#### astound

- v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise
- (1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

#### interconnect

v. to connect similar things

*synonym*: interlink, complect, annex

directly interconnect with those systems, (2) human activities interconnect with the environment
 Our system can now interconnect with other databases.

#### barista

- a person who works in a coffee shop or café, typically making and serving coffee and other hot beverages
   synonym: coffee maker, coffee expert, espresso artist
- (1) **barista** skills, (2) professional **barista**The **barista** at my favorite coffee shop always makes the perfect latte.

## upbeat

adj. positive, optimistic, or enthusiastic in attitude or outlook; having a lively or energetic rhythm or tempo, especially in music

synonym: optimistic, positive, hopeful

(1) **upbeat** attitude, (2) remain **upbeat** about the future The **upbeat** music helped to lift her spirits and put her in a good mood.

yell

v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

synonym: shout, scream, cry

(1) yell for help, (2) yell as loud as we can

When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and **yelled** at me.

vend

v. to sell or offer for sale, especially as a street vendor or in a small shop

*synonym*: sell, peddle, market

(1) vend souvenirs, (2) vend delicious meals

The local <b>vendor</b> was able to vend all of his fresh produce by
the end of the day.

## 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.

## aspiration

 a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

*synonym*: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

#### embarrass

- v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate
- (1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

## slurp

v. to eat, drink, or consume with a loud or messy sucking noise; to make a loud or messy sucking noise while eating, drinking, or consuming

synonym: sip, gulp, drink noisily

(1) **slurp** tea, (2) **slurp** noodles

The child couldn't resist **slurping** her soup loudly at the dinner table.

bud

a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot

synonym: shoot, sprout, germ

(1) pinch off a bud, (2) bud grafting

The flower was starting to show its **bud** and would soon bloom into a beautiful blossom.

sip

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

synonym: taste, sample, drink

(1) sip a drink, (2) take a sip of beer

He **sipped** his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

blur

 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.

aroma

 a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

synonym: fragrance, scent, smell

(1) aroma therapy, (2) coffee aroma

The **aroma** of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.

musky

adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss

synonym: musty, earthy, pungent

(1) musky aroma, (2) musky perfume

The **musky** scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.

hexagon

 a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

synonym: hexahedron, six-sided figure, six-gon

(1) **hexagon** head bolt, (2) **hexagon** pattern

The honeycomb structure of a beehive is made up of **hexagons**.

indentation

 a cut, gap, or mark on the surface of something; the space left between the margin and the start of an indented line

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synonym: gouge, dent, division

(1) a broad **indentation** of the gulf, (2) automatic **indentation** 

Archaeologists found a slight **indentation** in the middle of the lower jawbone on a bone excavated from that historic site.

enrich

frenzy

 to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

*synonym*: enhance, improve, augment

- (1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.
- a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior

synonym: frenetic, commotion, tumult

(1) **frenzy** of activity, (2) buying **frenzy**The shoppers were **frenzy** to get the best deals on Black Friday.

crank

 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.

grumpy

 adj. easily annoyed or irritable; inclined to complain or show dissatisfaction, often in an ill-tempered way

synonym: crabby, grouchy, irritable

(1) grumpy cat, (2) grumpy mood

The **grumpy** older man snapped at the children for playing too loudly.

hairpin

 a U-shaped or V-shaped piece of metal, plastic, or other material used for securing or holding hair in place; a sharp bend or curve in a road, often a hairpin turn,

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where the direction changes abruptly and sharply

(1) hairpin clip, (2) hairpin curve

She carefully navigated her way around the **hairpin** turns on the mountain road.

## terrify

- v. to frighten someone very much
- synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify
- (1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

## downside

- the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure
- synonym: drawback, negative, disadvantage
- (1) major **downside**, (2) **downside** of globalization The **downside** of the new policy was that it would be more expensive for customers.

#### silo

- a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others
- synonym: storage, warehouse, barn
- (1) nuclear silo, (2) silo organization

The farmer used a **silo** to store feed for the animals.

## upsurge

- a sudden and significant increase, a rise, or surge in something, especially in intensity or frequency
- synonym: surge, increase, rise
- (1) population **upsurge**, (2) an **upsurge** of emotion The country saw an **upsurge** in tourism after the new airport was built.

## jingoistic

 adj. characterized by extreme patriotism and aggressive foreign policy; advocating for the use of military force or aggressive action to advance national interests

synonym:

chauvinistic, nationalist, patriotic

(1) **jingoistic** fervor, (2) **jingoistic** attitudes

The **jingoistic** rhetoric of the political candidate was unsettling to many.

## complacent

adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes

synonym: content, satisfied, self-satisfied

(1) **complacent** attitude, (2) **complacent** with past successes

He became **complacent** in his job and stopped trying to improve.

## bastardize

 to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

*synonym*: corrupt, debase, pervert

(1) **bastardize** a recipe, (2) **bastardize** culture We do not want to **bastardize** the text's original meaning through poor translations.

mindset

 the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

*synonym*: attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1. flexible mi\_\_\_\_t

2. v\_\_d souvenirs

3. he\_\_\_n pattern

4. an\_\_y at the time

5. y\_l as loud as we can

6. coffee ar\_a

7. v\_\_d delicious meals

8. ba\_\_\_a skills

9. y\_\_I for help

10. as\_\_\_t driveway

11. nuclear s o

- *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
- v. to sell or offer for sale, especially as a street vendor or in a small shop
- a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length
- v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
- v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
- a distinctive, usually pleasant smell,
   often of a specific food, plant, or object
- v. to sell or offer for sale, especially as a street vendor or in a small shop
- a person who works in a coffee shop or café, typically making and serving coffee and other hot beverages
- v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
- n. a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
- a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others

ANSWERS: 1. mindset, 2. vend, 3. hexagon, 4. annoy, 5. yell, 6. aroma, 7. vend, 8. barista, 9. yell, 10. asphalt, 11. silo

ANSWERS: 12. enrich, 13. miner, 14. embarrass, 15. grumpy, 16. hairpin, 17. boast, 18. aspiration, 19. creditor, 20. silo

ANSWERS: 21. embarrass, 22. barista, 23. bud, 24. hairpin, 25. astound, 26. sip, 27. bastardize, 28. upbeat, 29. pave

ANSWERS: 30. pave, 31. aroma, 32. jingoistic, 33. upsurge, 34. asphalt, 35. complacent, 36. frenzy, 37. agnostic, 38. astound

ANSWERS: 39. aspiration, 40. crank, 41. terrify, 42. boast, 43. musky, 44. bud, 45. hexagon, 46. annoy, 47. enrich, 48. sip, 49. interconnect, 50. thanksgiving

Canada, that commemorates the giving

of thanks for the blessings of the

previous year

n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

ANSWERS: 51. blur, 52. predator, 53. downside, 54. musky, 55. miner, 56. downside, 57. mindset, 58. creditor, 59. thanksgiving

ANSWERS: 60. jingoistic, 61. slurp, 62. indentation, 63. agnostic, 64. bastardize, 65. upsurge, 66. grumpy, 67. slurp

drinking, or consuming

68.	directly intect with those systems	ν.	to connect similar things
69.	a broad indon of the gulf	n.	a cut, gap, or mark on the surface of something; the space left between the margin and the start of an indented line
70.	buying fry	n.	a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior
71.	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
72.	crk caller	n.	a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
73.	apex pror	n.	an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
74.	comnt attitude	adj.	satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
75.	remain upt about the future	adj.	positive, optimistic, or enthusiastic in attitude or outlook; having a lively or energetic rhythm or tempo, especially in music
76.	the threats tey him	<i>v</i> .	to frighten someone very much

ANSWERS: 68. interconnect, 69. indentation, 70. frenzy, 71. blur, 72. crank, 73. predator, 74. complacent, 75. upbeat, 76. terrify

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	He looked for an opportunity to that actor in public.
<i>v</i> .	to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
2.	The flower was starting to show its and would soon bloom into a beautiful blossom.
n.	a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
3.	The shoppers were to get the best deals on Black Friday.
n.	a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior
4.	Reading not only increases knowledge but also life.
v.	to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
5.	The farmer used a to store feed for the animals.
n.	a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others
6.	Archaeologists found a slight in the middle of the lower jawbone on a bone excavated from that historic site.
n.	a cut, gap, or mark on the surface of something; the space left between the margin and the start of an indented line
7.	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
AN cra	SWERS: 1. embarrass, 2. bud, 3. frenzy, 4. enriches, 5. silo, 6. indentation, 7. nk