

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Tammy Lally: Let's get honest about our money problems | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tammy\\_lally\\_let\\_s\\_get\\_honest\\_about\\_our\\_money\\_problems](https://www.ted.com/talks/tammy_lally_let_s_get_honest_about_our_money_problems)

### 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

### secrecy

*n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others

*synonym*: confidentiality, clandestineness, closeness

(1) government **secrecy**, (2) maintain **secrecy**

The company's **secrecy** surrounding its new product launch has created consumer excitement and anticipation.

### sham

*n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

*synonym*: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

### strait

*n.* a narrow stretch of water or sea connecting two larger bodies of water or seas

*synonym*: narrows, channel, passage

(1) **strait** passage, (2) **strait** channel

The ship navigated through the **strait** with great care.

### frightening

*adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

*synonym*: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience  
The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

### downsize

*v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members

*synonym*: reduce, cut back, trim

(1) **downsize** a company, (2) **downsize** a menu

The company had to **downsize** due to financial difficulties and let go of many employees.

### fearsome

*adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable

*synonym*: terrifying, alarming, intimidating

(1) **fearsome** creature, (2) **fearsome** reputation

The dragon's **fearsome** roar echoed through the valley.

### vacillate

*v.* to alternate or waver between different opinions, actions, or directions; to be indecisive

*synonym*: hesitate, waver, vibrate

(1) **vacillate** between hope and despair, (2) **vacillate** in behavior

I **vacillate** between different opinions, never quite sure which one is right.

### overdue

*adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed

*synonym*: late, delinquent, outstanding

(1) **overdue** bill, (2) **overdue** task

Her library books were **overdue**, so she had to pay a fine to check out more.

### 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.

## subconscious

*adj.* relating to or concerning the part of the mind that is not fully conscious but still influences thoughts, feelings, and behavior

*synonym* : unconscious, latent, hidden

(1) **subconscious** influence, (2) **subconscious** behavior

The **subconscious** mind is said to hold our deepest desires and fears.

## ingrained

*adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

*synonym* : inborn, embedded, deep-seated

(1) **ingrained** habit, (2) **ingrained** prejudice

Her fear of dogs was **ingrained** after a traumatic experience in childhood.

## recession

*n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

*synonym* : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

## 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.

## numb

*adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

*synonym* : dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

## uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

*synonym*: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth  
He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

## manifestation

n. a visible or tangible form of something, especially a particular sign of a disease or condition

*synonym*: expression, embodiment, presentation

(1) **manifestation** of a deeper problem, (2) **manifestation** of psychological stress

The **manifestation** of his anxiety was evident in his shaking hands.

## excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

*synonym*: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

## autobiography

n. a written account of someone's own life, written by that person

*synonym*: bio, life story, biography

(1) **autobiography** of his early life, (2) fictionalized **autobiography**

She wrote an **autobiography** detailing her journey from poverty to success.

## 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.

## intern

v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill

qualification criteria

*synonym* : apprentice, trainee, student

(1) **intern** civilians, (2) medical **intern**

The navy **interned** ships of defeated nations.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. turn out to be all s\_\_m  
*n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
2. fe\_\_\_\_\_me creature  
*adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable
3. st\_\_\_t channel  
*n.* a narrow stretch of water or sea connecting two larger bodies of water or seas
4. recover from a re\_\_\_\_\_on  
*n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
5. un\_\_\_\_\_r the truth  
*v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
6. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
7. in\_\_\_\_\_ed prejudice  
*adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
8. sub\_\_\_\_\_ous influence  
*adj.* relating to or concerning the part of the mind that is not fully conscious but still influences thoughts, feelings, and behavior
9. ex\_\_\_e the crowd  
*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 1. sham, 2. fearsome, 3. strait, 4. recession, 5. uncover, 6. confuse, 7. ingrained, 8. subconscious, 9. excite

10. st\_\_\_t passage *n.* a narrow stretch of water or sea connecting two larger bodies of water or seas
11. fe\_\_\_\_\_me reputation *adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable
12. sub\_\_\_\_\_ous behavior *adj.* relating to or concerning the part of the mind that is not fully conscious but still influences thoughts, feelings, and behavior
13. un\_\_\_\_\_r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
14. re\_\_\_\_\_on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
15. va\_\_\_\_\_te between hope and despair *v.* to alternate or waver between different opinions, actions, or directions; to be indecisive
16. medical in\_\_\_n *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
17. do\_\_\_\_\_ze a company *v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members
18. ex\_\_\_e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 10. strait, 11. fearsome, 12. subconscious, 13. uncover, 14. recession, 15. vacillate, 16. intern, 17. downsize, 18. excite

19. the threats te\_\_\_\_\_y him      *v.* to frighten someone very much
20. ov\_\_\_\_\_e task      *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
21. cast fri\_\_\_\_\_ng eyes      *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
22. in\_\_\_\_n civilians      *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
23. do\_\_\_\_\_ze a menu      *v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members
24. maintain se\_\_\_\_\_y      *n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others
25. n\_\_b with cold      *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
26. in\_\_\_\_\_ed habit      *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
27. bankrupt cr\_\_\_\_\_or      *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
28. fictionalized aut\_\_\_\_\_phy      *n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person

ANSWERS: 19. terrify, 20. overdue, 21. frightening, 22. intern, 23. downsize, 24. secrecy, 25. numb, 26. ingrained, 27. creditor, 28. autobiography



29. co\_\_\_\_\_e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
30. man\_\_\_\_\_ion of psychological stress *n.* a visible or tangible form of something, especially a particular sign of a disease or condition
31. aut\_\_\_\_\_phy of his early life *n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person
32. va\_\_\_\_\_te in behavior *v.* to alternate or waver between different opinions, actions, or directions; to be indecisive
33. government se\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others
34. man\_\_\_\_\_ion of a deeper problem *n.* a visible or tangible form of something, especially a particular sign of a disease or condition
35. te\_\_\_\_\_y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
36. fri\_\_\_\_\_ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
37. a n\_\_b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
38. the cr\_\_\_\_\_or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
39. ov\_\_\_\_\_e bill *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
40. a s\_\_m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

ANSWERS: 29. confuse, 30. manifestation, 31. autobiography, 32. vacillate, 33. secrecy, 34. manifestation, 35. terrify, 36. frightening, 37. numb, 38. creditor, 39. overdue, 40. sham

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The country is facing a \_\_\_\_\_ with high unemployment and low GDP.  
*n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
  
2. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
  
3. She wrote an \_\_\_\_\_ detailing her journey from poverty to success.  
*n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person
  
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ between different opinions, never quite sure which one is right.  
*v.* to alternate or waver between different opinions, actions, or directions; to be indecisive
  
5. The news of her promotion \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
  
6. The news of the pandemic was a \_\_\_\_\_ reminder of the fragility of human health.  
*adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
  
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his anxiety was evident in his shaking hands.  
*n.* a visible or tangible form of something, especially a particular sign of a disease or condition
  
8. The company's \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding its new product launch has created consumer excitement and anticipation.  
*n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others

ANSWERS: 1. recession, 2. confused, 3. autobiography, 4. vacillate, 5. excited, 6. frightening, 7. manifestation, 8. secrecy

9. The company had to \_\_\_\_\_ due to financial difficulties and let go of many employees.
- v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members
10. I asked the lawyer to initiate \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
11. Her library books were \_\_\_\_\_ so she had to pay a fine to check out more.
- adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
12. It would be best not to \_\_\_\_\_ your associates into doing complex tasks.
- v.* to frighten someone very much
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ mind is said to hold our deepest desires and fears.
- adj.* relating to or concerning the part of the mind that is not fully conscious but still influences thoughts, feelings, and behavior
14. The data he prepared was completely \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
15. Her fear of dogs was \_\_\_\_\_ after a traumatic experience in childhood.
- adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
16. He continued his investigation and soon \_\_\_\_\_ another crime.
- v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

ANSWERS: 9. downsize, 10. creditor, 11. overdue, 12. terrify, 13. subconscious, 14. sham, 15. ingrained, 16. uncovered

17. The navy \_\_\_\_\_ ships of defeated nations.

- v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

18. The dragon's \_\_\_\_\_ roar echoed through the valley.

- adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable

19. My left arm became \_\_\_\_\_.

- adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

20. The ship navigated through the \_\_\_\_\_ with great care.

- n.* a narrow stretch of water or sea connecting two larger bodies of water or seas

ANSWERS: 17. interned, 18. fearsome, 19. numb, 20. strait