

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Floyd E. Romesberg: The radical possibilities of man-made DNA | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/floyd\\_e\\_romesberg\\_the\\_radical\\_possibilities\\_of\\_man\\_made\\_dna](https://www.ted.com/talks/floyd_e_romesberg_the_radical_possibilities_of_man_made_dna)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### human-made

*adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial

*synonym*: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst

**human-made** disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

### synthesize

*v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

*synonym*: incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

### algae

*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

(1) **algae** biofuel, (2) blue **algae**

**Algae** has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.

### impatience

*n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

*synonym*: impatience, restlessness, agitation

(1) **impatience** with delays, (2) business **impatience**

The doctor advised him to manage his **impatience** as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## esoteric

*adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

*synonym*: abstruse, recondite, arcane

(1) an **esoteric** religion, (2) **esoteric** tome

The book's content was so **esoteric** only a select few scholars could fully understand it.

## medicinal

*adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

*synonym*: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

## provocative

*adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

*synonym*: instigating, provoking, inciting

(1) **provocative** questions, (2) a **provocative** smile

His **provocative** style frequently sparked controversies.

## confer

*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

*synonym*: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

## inject

*v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

*synonym* : shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

## degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

*synonym* : demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

## doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

*synonym* : rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

## dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

*synonym* : reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

## starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

*synonym* : famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

## jellyfish

*n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

*synonym*: medusa, sea nettle, moon jelly

(1) spineless **jellyfish**, (2) **jellyfish** sting

The beach was filled with hundreds of **jellyfish**, so swimming was not recommended.

## replicate

*v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

*synonym*: duplicate, imitate, reproduce

(1) **replicate** the cell, (2) **replicate** data

The experiment was **replicated** several times to ensure accuracy.

## obsession

*n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

*synonym*: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

## parochial

*adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

*synonym*: narrow-minded, insular, provincial

(1) **parochial** views, (2) **parochial** community

The **parochial** attitude of the small town made it difficult for outsiders to feel welcome.

## boggle

*v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised

*synonym*: hesitate, stagger, bewilder

(1) **boggle** the imagination, (2) **boggle** at the price

The complexity of the situation can **boggle** the mind.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. an es\_\_\_\_\_ic religion  
*adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest
2. st\_\_\_\_\_e to death  
*v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
3. re\_\_\_\_\_te the cell  
*v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
4. a pro\_\_\_\_\_ve smile  
*adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately
5. de\_\_\_\_\_e his public image  
*v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
6. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. hulking di\_\_\_\_\_ur  
*n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
8. di\_\_\_\_\_ur fossil  
*n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

ANSWERS: 1. esoteric, 2. starve, 3. replicate, 4. provocative, 5. degrade, 6. opportune, 7. dinosaur, 8. dinosaur

9. national ob\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
10. st\_\_\_e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
11. hum\_\_\_\_\_de climate change *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
12. es\_\_\_\_\_ic tome *adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest
13. re\_\_\_\_\_te data *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
14. the worst hum\_\_\_\_\_de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
15. syn\_\_\_\_\_ze molecules *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
16. d\_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
17. de\_\_\_\_\_e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
18. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 9. obsession, 10. starve, 11. human-made, 12. esoteric, 13. replicate, 14. human-made, 15. synthesize, 16. doe, 17. degrade, 18. opportune

19. in\_\_\_t a personal opinion into a debate  
*v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
20. pa\_\_\_\_\_al views  
*adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings
21. syn\_\_\_\_\_ze information  
*v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
22. buck and d\_e  
*n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
23. al\_\_e biofuel  
*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
24. ob\_\_\_\_\_on with character  
*n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
25. co\_\_\_r honor  
*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
26. je\_\_\_\_\_sh sting  
*n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
27. pro\_\_\_\_\_ve questions  
*adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately
28. me\_\_\_\_\_al chemistry  
*adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 19. inject, 20. parochial, 21. synthesize, 22. doe, 23. algae, 24. obsession, 25. confer, 26. jellyfish, 27. provocative, 28. medicinal

29. imp\_\_\_\_\_ce with delays *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
30. traditional me\_\_\_\_\_al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
31. spineless je\_\_\_\_\_sh *n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
32. bo\_\_\_e the imagination *v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised
33. bo\_\_\_e at the price *v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised
34. co\_\_\_r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
35. business imp\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
36. pa\_\_\_\_\_al community *adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings
37. in\_\_\_t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

ANSWERS: 29. impatience, 30. medicinal, 31. jellyfish, 32. boggle, 33. boggle, 34. confer, 35. impatience, 36. parochial, 37. inject



38. blue al\_\_e

*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

ANSWERS: 38. algae

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.  
*adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
2. You should not \_\_\_\_\_ yourself by allowing them to use you.  
*v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
3. The leaders of the two countries met to \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue.  
*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
4. Gambling became an \_\_\_\_\_ for him, and he eventually lost everything.  
*n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
5. \_\_\_\_\_ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.  
*n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
6. The doctor advised him to manage his \_\_\_\_\_ as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.  
*n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
7. His \_\_\_\_\_ style frequently sparked controversies.  
*adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

ANSWERS: 1. medicinal, 2. degrade, 3. confer, 4. obsession, 5. Algae, 6. impatience, 7. provocative

8. The beach was filled with hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ so swimming was not recommended.

*n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

9. The \_\_\_\_\_ attitude of the small town made it difficult for outsiders to feel welcome.

*adj.* related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

10. The spider can \_\_\_\_\_ multiple different silk proteins.

*v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

11. Hunters use a whistle that makes the \_\_\_\_ sound to lure stags.

*n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

12. The complexity of the situation can \_\_\_\_\_ the mind.

*v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised

13. If you don't eat soon, you're going to \_\_\_\_\_.

*v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

14. The book's content was so \_\_\_\_\_ only a select few scholars could fully understand it.

*adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

ANSWERS: 8. jellyfish, 9. parochial, 10. synthesize, 11. doe, 12. boggle, 13. starve, 14. esoteric

15. The experiment was \_\_\_\_\_ several times to ensure accuracy.
- v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
16. The bridge is a \_\_\_\_\_ structure and was built to span the river.
- adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
17. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. Let's try to \_\_\_\_\_ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
- v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
19. The discovery of a new \_\_\_\_\_ species made headlines in the scientific community.
- n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

ANSWERS: 15. replicated, 16. human-made, 17. opportune, 18. inject, 19. dinosaur