

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sunni Patterson: "Wild Women" | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sunni\\_patterson\\_wild\\_women](https://www.ted.com/talks/sunni_patterson_wild_women)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### piecemeal

*adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit

*synonym*: gradually, incrementally, (adjective) bit by bit

(1) **piecemeal** approach, (2) **piecemeal** changes

The building was constructed **piecemeal** over several years.

### loveless

*adj.* lacking in love, affection, or warmth; showing little or no affection or concern for others; also, relating to or characterized by a lack of love or intimacy in a romantic relationship

*synonym*: unloving, heartless

(1) **loveless** communication, (2) **loveless** relationship

Their **loveless** marriage finally came to an end after years of unhappiness.

### litany

*n.* a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests

(1) **litany** of prayers, (2) **litany** of excuses

The **litany** of complaints from unhappy customers reminded us that we needed to improve our service.

## exaggeration

*n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

*synonym*: hyperbole, overstatement, embellishment

(1) sensational **exaggeration**, (2) minimal **exaggeration**

His story was filled with obvious **exaggerations**.

## immaculate

*adj.* perfectly clean, spotless, or free from dirt or stains; without any flaws or imperfections

*synonym*: flawless, spotless, pristine

(1) **immaculate** appearance, (2) **immaculate** record

The **immaculate** kitchen was a testament to her attention to detail and cleanliness.

## sandalwood

*n.* a fragrant, yellowish wood obtained from various tropical trees, used for carving, building, and in the production of perfumes and aromatherapy oils

(1) **sandalwood** beads, (2) **sandalwood** oil

The room was filled with a calming **sandalwood** aroma from the scented candles.

## sapphire

*n.* a transparent precious stone of deep blue color, often used in jewelry; any of several other gemstones or minerals that are blue or blue-green

*synonym*: blue stone, jewel, gemstone

(1) **sapphire** ring, (2) pink **sapphire**

She wore a stunning **sapphire** necklace to the ball.

## greedy

*adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

*synonym*: avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

## bland

*adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

*synonym*: boring, insipid, flavorless

(1) make a **bland** reply, (2) **bland** novel

The dinner was rather **bland** and in need of some seasoning.

## uncultured

*adj.* lacking in education or sophistication; unrefined; lacking awareness or understanding of cultural norms, values, or traditions

*synonym*: uncivilized, uneducated, ignorant

(1) **uncultured** soil, (2) the impression of being **uncultured**

His **uncultured** behavior showed his lack of manners and education.

## siege

*n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

*synonym*: blockade, encirclement, barricade

(1) hostage **siege**, (2) lay **siege** to his house

People began storing up food and supplies for the **siege**.

## cuff

*n.* a band or strip of material, usually worn around the wrist or ankle, often used to secure or fasten something in place; a blow or hit delivered with an open hand, typically to the head or ear

*synonym*: bracelet, handcuff, shackle

(1) **cuff** bracelet, (2) soft **cuff**

The doctor used a blood pressure **cuff** to measure my vitals.

## baptize

*v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)

*synonym*: purify, immerse

(1) **baptize** a baby, (2) **baptize** with water

The priest **baptized** my father on his deathbed.

## swine

*n.* a domestic pig, especially one bred for its meat

*synonym*: pig, hog, porker

(1) **swine** flu, (2) **swine** industry

The farmer raises **swine** on his farm for the market.

## unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it  
*synonym* : separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

## fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

*synonym* : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

## hypnotize

v. to put someone in a state of hypnosis (= the induction of a state of consciousness in which the mind readily acts on suggestions)

*synonym* : grip, enchant, anesthetize

(1) **hypnotize** a subject, (2) **hypnotize** them against negative minds

The local sorcerer insists that he can **hypnotize** him into a deep trance.

## bigotry

n. intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself

*synonym* : intolerance, prejudice, bias

(1) ethnic **bigotry**, (2) self-righteous **bigotry**

**Bigotry** and discrimination have no place in our society.

## singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

*synonym* : sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

## whisk

v. to move something somewhere suddenly and quickly

*synonym* : whip, hasten, wipe

(1) **whisk** flies away, (2) **whisk** people from entrance to exit  
**Whisk** rapidly until egg whites are foamy.

## **machete**

*n.* a large, heavy knife with a broad blade used for cutting vegetation or, in some cultures, as a weapon

*synonym* : panga, chopper, sword

(1) sharp **machete**, (2) rusty **machete**

The farmer used a steel **machete** to clear away the dense underbrush in the field.

## **shred**

*v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

*synonym* : rip up, tear up, cut

(1) **shred** paper into little pieces, (2) **shred** lettuce for a salad

There is not a **shred** of evidence that he is guilty.

## **roam**

*v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

*synonym* : wander, ramble, meander

(1) **roam** freely, (2) **roam** the countryside

I love to **roam** around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

## **gust**

*n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air

*synonym* : blast, flurry, burst

(1) sudden **gust**, (2) strong **gusts**

The **gust** of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.

## **cyclone**

*n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs

*synonym* : tornado, twister, hurricane

(1) **cyclone** warning, (2) devastating **cyclone**

The **cyclone's** strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.

## summon

v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

*synonym*: call for, muster, assemble

(1) **summon** a lawyer, (2) **summon** a city council

The chairperson was responsible for **summoning** committees.

## resurrect

v. to bring back to life or bring into existence again

*synonym*: revive, bring back, bring to life

(1) **resurrect** the dead, (2) **resurrect** an argument

They tried to **resurrect** the ancient tradition.

## beware

v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

*synonym*: heed, caution, alert

(1) **beware** of scams, (2) **beware** of strangers

Please **beware** of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.

## tame

v. to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training

*synonym*: domesticate, soften, (adjective) harmless

(1) **tame** a wild beast, (2) a **tame** animal

We have to **tame** substantial financial deficits at first.

## ablaze

*adj.* on fire; burning brightly

*synonym*: burning, alight, on fire

(1) sky **ablaze** with stars, (2) **ablaze** with passion

The building was **ablaze** with fire.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. pink sa\_\_\_\_re  
*n.* a transparent precious stone of deep blue color, often used in jewelry; any of several other gemstones or minerals that are blue or blue-green
2. imm\_\_\_\_\_te record  
*adj.* perfectly clean, spotless, or free from dirt or stains; without any flaws or imperfections
3. bl\_\_d novel  
*adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
4. ba\_\_\_\_\_e a baby  
*v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)
5. gr\_\_\_y for money  
*adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
6. hostage si\_\_e  
*n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
7. soft c\_\_f  
*n.* a band or strip of material, usually worn around the wrist or ankle, often used to secure or fasten something in place; a blow or hit delivered with an open hand, typically to the head or ear
8. minimal exa\_\_\_\_\_ion  
*n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

ANSWERS: 1. sapphire, 2. immaculate, 3. bland, 4. baptize, 5. greedy, 6. siege, 7. cuff, 8. exaggeration

9. hy\_\_\_\_\_ze them against negative minds  
v. to put someone in a state of hypnosis (= the induction of a state of consciousness in which the mind readily acts on suggestions)
10. wh\_\_k people from entrance to exit  
v. to move something somewhere suddenly and quickly
11. fa\_\_\_\_\_te the public  
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
12. devastating cy\_\_\_\_\_e  
n. a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
13. lo\_\_\_\_\_ss communication  
adj. lacking in love, affection, or warmth; showing little or no affection or concern for others; also, relating to or characterized by a lack of love or intimacy in a romantic relationship
14. be\_\_\_e of scams  
v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
15. c\_\_f bracelet  
n. a band or strip of material, usually worn around the wrist or ankle, often used to secure or fasten something in place; a blow or hit delivered with an open hand, typically to the head or ear
16. su\_\_\_n a lawyer  
v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

ANSWERS: 9. hypnotize, 10. whisk, 11. fascinate, 12. cyclone, 13. loveless, 14. beware, 15. cuff, 16. summon



17. si\_\_e off the hair over the flames      *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
18. lo\_\_\_\_ss relationship      *adj.* lacking in love, affection, or warmth; showing little or no affection or concern for others; also, relating to or characterized by a lack of love or intimacy in a romantic relationship
19. be\_\_\_e of strangers      *v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
20. sw\_\_e flu      *n.* a domestic pig, especially one bred for its meat
21. imm\_\_\_\_te appearance      *adj.* perfectly clean, spotless, or free from dirt or stains; without any flaws or imperfections
22. su\_\_\_n a city council      *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
23. ba\_\_\_\_e with water      *v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)
24. sky ab\_\_\_e with stars      *adj.* on fire; burning brightly
25. the impression of being unc\_\_\_\_ed      *adj.* lacking in education or sophistication; unrefined; lacking awareness or understanding of cultural norms, values, or traditions
26. sw\_\_e industry      *n.* a domestic pig, especially one bred for its meat
27. sa\_\_\_\_re ring      *n.* a transparent precious stone of deep blue color, often used in jewelry; any of several other gemstones or minerals that are blue or blue-green

ANSWERS: 17. singe, 18. loveless, 19. beware, 20. swine, 21. immaculate, 22. summon, 23. baptize, 24. ablaze, 25. uncultured, 26. swine, 27. sapphire

28. make a bl\_\_d reply *adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
29. self-righteous bi\_\_\_\_y *n.* intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself
30. san\_\_\_\_\_od oil *n.* a fragrant, yellowish wood obtained from various tropical trees, used for carving, building, and in the production of perfumes and aromatherapy oils
31. sh\_\_d lettuce for a salad *v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
32. un\_\_\_\_\_l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
33. t\_\_e a wild beast *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
34. strong g\_\_ts *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
35. hy\_\_\_\_\_ze a subject *v.* to put someone in a state of hypnosis (= the induction of a state of consciousness in which the mind readily acts on suggestions)
36. gr\_\_\_\_y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
37. unc\_\_\_\_\_ed soil *adj.* lacking in education or sophistication; unrefined; lacking awareness or understanding of cultural norms, values, or traditions

ANSWERS: 28. bland, 29. bigotry, 30. sandalwood, 31. shred, 32. unravel, 33. tame, 34. gust, 35. hypnotize, 36. greedy, 37. uncultured

38. a t\_\_e animal      *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
39. pi\_\_\_\_\_al changes      *adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit
40. san\_\_\_\_\_od beads      *n.* a fragrant, yellowish wood obtained from various tropical trees, used for carving, building, and in the production of perfumes and aromatherapy oils
41. fa\_\_\_\_\_te the young      *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
42. si\_\_e the edges of a fabric      *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
43. cy\_\_\_\_\_e warning      *n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
44. sudden g\_\_t      *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
45. sharp ma\_\_\_\_\_e      *n.* a large, heavy knife with a broad blade used for cutting vegetation or, in some cultures, as a weapon
46. r\_\_m freely      *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

ANSWERS: 38. tame, 39. piecemeal, 40. sandalwood, 41. fascinate, 42. singe, 43. cyclone, 44. gust, 45. machete, 46. roam

47. rusty ma\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a large, heavy knife with a broad blade used for cutting vegetation or, in some cultures, as a weapon
48. un\_\_\_\_\_l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
49. sh\_\_d paper into little pieces *v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
50. pi\_\_\_\_\_al approach *adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit
51. re\_\_\_\_\_ct an argument *v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again
52. ethnic bi\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself
53. li\_\_\_\_y of excuses *n.* a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests
54. lay si\_\_e to his house *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
55. r\_\_m the countryside *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
56. wh\_\_k flies away *v.* to move something somewhere suddenly and quickly

ANSWERS: 47. machete, 48. unravel, 49. shred, 50. piecemeal, 51. resurrect, 52. bigotry, 53. litany, 54. siege, 55. roam, 56. whisk

57. ab\_\_\_e with passion

*adj.* on fire; burning brightly

58. li\_\_\_y of prayers

*n.* a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests

59. re\_\_\_\_\_ct the dead

*v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again

60. sensational exa\_\_\_\_\_ion

*n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is

ANSWERS: 57. ablaze, 58. litany, 59. resurrect, 60. exaggeration

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The building was \_\_\_\_\_ with fire.

*adj.* on fire; burning brightly

2. The magic tricks \_\_\_\_\_ the children.

*v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

3. The building was constructed \_\_\_\_\_ over several years.

*adv.* gradually or in small increments, usually referring to a process or action that is done in stages or bit by bit; (adjective) consisting of many small parts or pieces; done gradually or bit by bit

4. I love to \_\_\_\_\_ around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

*v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

5. They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the ancient tradition.

*v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again

6. Their \_\_\_\_\_ marriage finally came to an end after years of unhappiness.

*adj.* lacking in love, affection, or warmth; showing little or no affection or concern for others; also, relating to or characterized by a lack of love or intimacy in a romantic relationship

7. The priest \_\_\_\_\_ my father on his deathbed.

*v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.

*n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs

ANSWERS: 1. ablaze, 2. fascinated, 3. piecemeal, 4. roam, 5. resurrect, 6. loveless, 7. baptized, 8. cyclone's

9. Please \_\_\_\_\_ of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.
- v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
10. The doctor used a blood pressure \_\_\_\_\_ to measure my vitals.
- n.* a band or strip of material, usually worn around the wrist or ankle, often used to secure or fasten something in place; a blow or hit delivered with an open hand, typically to the head or ear
11. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior led him to steal from the company.
- adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
12. The local sorcerer insists that he can \_\_\_\_\_ him into a deep trance.
- v.* to put someone in a state of hypnosis (= the induction of a state of consciousness in which the mind readily acts on suggestions)
13. His story was filled with obvious \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
14. The dinner was rather \_\_\_\_\_ and in need of some seasoning.
- adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
15. \_\_\_\_\_ and discrimination have no place in our society.
- n.* intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself
16. She wore a stunning \_\_\_\_\_ necklace to the ball.
- n.* a transparent precious stone of deep blue color, often used in jewelry; any of several other gemstones or minerals that are blue or blue-green

ANSWERS: 9. beware, 10. cuff, 11. greedy, 12. hypnotize, 13. exaggerations, 14. bland, 15. Bigotry, 16. sapphire

17. Detectives are still attempting to \_\_\_\_\_ the mystery of his death.  
*v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ of complaints from unhappy customers reminded us that we needed to improve our service.  
*n.* a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen was a testament to her attention to detail and cleanliness.  
*adj.* perfectly clean, spotless, or free from dirt or stains; without any flaws or imperfections
20. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior showed his lack of manners and education.  
*adj.* lacking in education or sophistication; unrefined; lacking awareness or understanding of cultural norms, values, or traditions
21. People began storing up food and supplies for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
22. The farmer raises \_\_\_\_\_ on his farm for the market.  
*n.* a domestic pig, especially one bred for its meat
23. The farmer used a steel \_\_\_\_\_ to clear away the dense underbrush in the field.  
*n.* a large, heavy knife with a broad blade used for cutting vegetation or, in some cultures, as a weapon
24. \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly until egg whites are foamy.  
*v.* to move something somewhere suddenly and quickly

ANSWERS: 17. unravel, 18. litany, 19. immaculate, 20. uncultured, 21. siege, 22. swine, 23. machete, 24. Whisk



25. The \_\_\_\_\_ of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.  
*n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
26. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and \_\_\_\_\_ my dress.  
*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
27. The room was filled with a calming \_\_\_\_\_ aroma from the scented candles.  
*n.* a fragrant, yellowish wood obtained from various tropical trees, used for carving, building, and in the production of perfumes and aromatherapy oils
28. The chairperson was responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ committees.  
*v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
29. There is not a \_\_\_\_\_ of evidence that he is guilty.  
*v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
30. We have to \_\_\_\_\_ substantial financial deficits at first.  
*v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training

ANSWERS: 25. gust, 26. singed, 27. sandalwood, 28. summoning, 29. shred, 30. tame