

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Sam Berns: My philosophy for a happy life | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sam\\_bern\\_s\\_my\\_philosophy\\_for\\_a\\_happy\\_life](https://www.ted.com/talks/sam_bern_s_my_philosophy_for_a_happy_life)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### snare

*n.* a trap or device used to catch animals by means of a noose or wire loop; a type of drum consisting of a head stretched over a hollow shell, usually played with drumsticks

*synonym*: trap, noose, entanglement

(1) **snare** drum, (2) fall into a **snare**

The thief was caught in a **snare** set by the police.

### progeria

*n.* a rare genetic disorder that occurs in children and causes rapid aging and premature death, which is characterized by the appearance of aging-related symptoms, such as wrinkles and stiff joints, and typically leads to death in the teenage years

*synonym*: rapid aging disease, premature aging

(1) **progeria** syndrome, (2) **progeria** genetics

Children with **progeria** often have a small body size and are prone to heart problems.

### timpani

*n.* a set of kettledrums (= large metal drums) played with soft-headed mallets

*synonym*: kettle drums, drum

(1) **timpani** drums, (2) **timpani** player

The **timpani** roll during the climax of the symphony was so powerful that it made the entire hall vibrate.

## devastate

*v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage  
*synonym*: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

## stunt

*n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

*synonym*: feat, accomplishment, (verb) hinder

(1) skydiving **stunt**, (2) **stunt** brain growth

The daredevil attempted a dangerous **stunt** by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.

## quote

*v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

*synonym*: cite, reference, mention

(1) **quote** a source, (2) **quote** a price

In his speech, he **quoted** a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.

## scout

*n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations

*synonym*: scoutmaster, explorer, surveyor

(1) boy **scout**, (2) **scout** troop

The company sent a **scout** to explore new business opportunities in the overseas market.

## goofy

*adj.* silly or foolish

*synonym*: silly, crazy, dopey

(1) wear a **goofy** hat, (2) with a **goofy** expression

He made a **goofy** face as he recalled this morning's events.

## supersede

*v.* to replace or be replaced by something else, particularly something newer, better, or more effective; to supplant or take over the place or function of another

*synonym* : replace, override, displace

(1) **supersede** an old method, (2) **supersede** a tradition

The new technology will **supersede** the old one in no time.

## paradox

*n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

*synonym* : incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

## catapult

*n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance

*synonym* : launcher, trebuchet, slingshot

(1) powerful **catapult**, (2) **catapult** mechanism

The army used a **catapult** to launch large rocks over the castle walls.

## biochemical

*adj.* relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

*synonym* : molecular, biological

(1) **biochemical** reaction, (2) complex **biochemical**

**Biochemical** research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.

## embody

*v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

*synonym* : represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

## secluded

*adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

*synonym* : isolated, remote, hidden

(1) **secluded** retreat, (2) **secluded** cabin

The **secluded** beach was the perfect place to unwind and escape from the busy city.

## **falter**

*v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky  
*synonym*: hesitate, stumble, waver

(1) **falter** in decision-making, (2) **falter** in speech

My confidence began to **falter** as I gave my presentation in front of the class.

## **homecoming**

*n.* a return to one's home or hometown, often following an extended period of absence, such as after graduation, military service, or travel; a celebratory event or tradition welcoming someone back home

*synonym*: return, arrival, reunion

(1) high school **homecoming**, (2) plan a **homecoming** event

An annual **homecoming** parade is a big event for the local high school.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. powerful ca\_\_\_\_\_lt *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
2. sn\_\_e drum *n.* a trap or device used to catch animals by means of a noose or wire loop; a type of drum consisting of a head stretched over a hollow shell, usually played with drumsticks
3. fa\_\_\_r in speech *v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
4. qu\_\_e a price *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
5. complex bio\_\_\_\_\_al *adj.* relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms
6. high school hom\_\_\_\_\_ng *n.* a return to one's home or hometown, often following an extended period of absence, such as after graduation, military service, or travel; a celebratory event or tradition welcoming someone back home
7. se\_\_\_\_\_ed cabin *adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

ANSWERS: 1. catapult, 2. snare, 3. falter, 4. quote, 5. biochemical, 6. homecoming, 7. secluded

8. sc\_\_t troop *n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations
9. boy sc\_\_t *n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations
10. French pa\_\_\_\_x *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
11. pr\_\_\_\_ia syndrome *n.* a rare genetic disorder that occurs in children and causes rapid aging and premature death, which is characterized by the appearance of aging-related symptoms, such as wrinkles and stiff joints, and typically leads to death in the teenage years
12. ca\_\_\_\_lt mechanism *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
13. ti\_\_\_\_i player *n.* a set of kettledrums (= large metal drums) played with soft-headed mallets
14. se\_\_\_\_ed retreat *adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

ANSWERS: 8. scout, 9. scout, 10. paradox, 11. progeria, 12. catapult, 13. timpani, 14. secluded

15. with a go\_\_y expression *adj.* silly or foolish
16. su\_\_\_\_\_de an old method *v.* to replace or be replaced by something else, particularly something newer, better, or more effective; to supplant or take over the place or function of another
17. de\_\_\_\_\_te the economy *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
18. ware a go\_\_y hat *adj.* silly or foolish
19. qu\_\_e a source *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
20. su\_\_\_\_\_de a tradition *v.* to replace or be replaced by something else, particularly something newer, better, or more effective; to supplant or take over the place or function of another
21. the pa\_\_\_\_\_x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
22. skydiving st\_\_t *n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

ANSWERS: 15. goofy, 16. supersede, 17. devastate, 18. goofy, 19. quote, 20. supersede, 21. paradox, 22. stunt





30. em\_\_\_y my goal                      *v.*    to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
31. em\_\_\_y a spirit of charity           *v.*    to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
32. ti\_\_\_\_\_i drums                    *n.*    a set of kettledrums (= large metal drums) played with soft-headed mallets

ANSWERS: 30. embody, 31. embody, 32. timpani

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. In his speech, he \_\_\_\_\_ a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.
  - v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
  
2. The company's new products \_\_\_\_\_ the values of innovation and sustainability.
  - v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
  
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ roll during the climax of the symphony was so powerful that it made the entire hall vibrate.
  - n.* a set of kettledrums (= large metal drums) played with soft-headed mallets
  
4. The company sent a \_\_\_\_\_ to explore new business opportunities in the overseas market.
  - n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations
  
5. The thief was caught in a \_\_\_\_\_ set by the police.
  - n.* a trap or device used to catch animals by means of a noose or wire loop; a type of drum consisting of a head stretched over a hollow shell, usually played with drumsticks
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.
  - adj.* relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

ANSWERS: 1. quoted, 2. embody, 3. timpani, 4. scout, 5. snare, 6. Biochemical

7. My confidence began to \_\_\_\_\_ as I gave my presentation in front of the class.
- v.* to hesitate or stumble in action or speech; to lose strength or momentum; to become unsteady or shaky
8. The army used a \_\_\_\_\_ to launch large rocks over the castle walls.
- n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
9. There are many theories to explain this \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
10. The daredevil attempted a dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.
- n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
11. Children with \_\_\_\_\_ often have a small body size and are prone to heart problems.
- n.* a rare genetic disorder that occurs in children and causes rapid aging and premature death, which is characterized by the appearance of aging-related symptoms, such as wrinkles and stiff joints, and typically leads to death in the teenage years
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ beach was the perfect place to unwind and escape from the busy city.
- adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

ANSWERS: 7. falter, 8. catapult, 9. paradox, 10. stunt, 11. progeria, 12. secluded

13. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which \_\_\_\_\_ coastal areas.

*v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

14. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ face as he recalled this morning's events.

*adj.* silly or foolish

15. The new technology will \_\_\_\_\_ the old one in no time.

*v.* to replace or be replaced by something else, particularly something newer, better, or more effective; to supplant or take over the place or function of another

16. An annual \_\_\_\_\_ parade is a big event for the local high school.

*n.* a return to one's home or hometown, often following an extended period of absence, such as after graduation, military service, or travel; a celebratory event or tradition welcoming someone back home

ANSWERS: 13. devastate, 14. goofy, 15. supersede, 16. homecoming