

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Douglas L. Oliver: The science of hearing | TED Talk  
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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### cawing

*n.* the act of making the characteristic loud, harsh, and repeated cry of a crow or raven

(1) the distant **cawing** of seagulls, (2) incessant **cawing**  
The **cawing** of the crows echoed through the quiet forest.

### gull

*n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers

*synonym*: seagull

(1) a white sea **gull**, (2) **gull** family

Because **gulls** are gliding birds, their wings are long and slender.

### whine

*v.* to utter a high-pitched, complaining sound, often in a tone that is irritating or grating to others; to express discontent or dissatisfaction in a persistent or annoying manner

*synonym*: complain, moan, whimper

(1) **whine** about homework, (2) **whine** about the weather

The child began to **whine** when his mom said they couldn't go to the park.

### whack

*v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily

*synonym*: hit, strike, bash

(1) **whack** him with a stick, (2) **whack** up the volume

He **whacked** the ball out of the park with his home run.

## offend

*v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed  
*synonym* : insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

## mosquito

*n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

*synonym* : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

## auditory

*adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

*synonym* : hearing, audible, aural

(1) a good **auditory** memory, (2) **auditory** system

The **auditory** nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

## cochlea

*n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation

*synonym* : spiral organ, snail shell, inner ear

(1) **cochlea** spiral, (2) implanted **cochlea**

Damage to the **cochlea** can cause hearing loss or deafness.

## saltwater

*adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea

*synonym* : marine, naval, maritime

(1) a **saltwater** fish, (2) **saltwater** crocodile

The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the **saltwater** ecosystem downstream.

## eardrum

*n.* a membrane in the middle ear that vibrates in response to sound waves and transmits the vibrations to the inner

## ear

*synonym* : tympanum, auricular membrane, myringa

(1) burst **eardrum**, (2) protect **eardrum**

The loud noise ruptured my **eardrum**, and I had to go to the hospital.

## tympanum

*n.* (of anatomy) the membrane-like structure within the ear that vibrates in response to sound waves, transmitting them to the inner ear for interpretation; (of architecture) the semi-circular or triangular decorative wall surface over an entrance, door, or window, which is bounded by a lintel and an arch

*synonym* : eardrum

(1) **tympanum** membrane, (2) The **tympanum** sculpture on the cathedral

His ear infection affected the **tympanum** function, causing temporary hearing loss.

## vibrate

*v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

*synonym* : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

## anvil

*n.* a heavy iron block with a flat top and a horn-like projection used as a working surface for forging, shaping, and hammering hot metal

*synonym* : forge, block, base

(1) the hot metal on the **anvil**, (2) **anvil** stone

The sound of the hammer hitting the **anvil** echoed through the workshop.

## stapes

*n.* the smallest bone in the human body, located in the middle ear, also known as the stirrup bone, transmits sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear

*synonym* : stirrup, ossicle, ear bone

(1) immobile **stapes**, (2) dislocated **stapes**

The **stapes** bone is one of the three tiny bones in the middle ear that transmit sound vibrations.

## basil

*n.* an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine

*synonym* : herb

(1) freshly chopped **basil**, (2) **basil** leaves

The **basil** in the garden was ready to be picked for tonight's pasta dish.

## cilium

*n.* a microscopic, hair-like cellular projection that is found on the surface of many cells in the body, helping them to move or trap debris

*synonym* : eyelash, flagellum

(1) **cilium** movement, (2) primary **cilium**

The microscopic analysis revealed a **cilium's** presence on the single-celled organism's surface.

## intensify

*v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

*synonym* : amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

## microsecond

*n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second

(1) at a **microsecond** rate, (2) 10 millimeters per **microsecond**

This process all happens within a **microsecond**.

## brainstem

*n.* the part of the vertebrate central nervous system that is continuous with the spinal cord and is composed of the medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain, which controls many automatic functions of the body, such as heartbeat, breathing, and consciousness

*synonym* : medulla oblongata, pons

(1) **brainstem** function, (2) pontine **brainstem**

A stroke in the **brainstem** can cause paralysis or even death.

## osteosclerosis

*n.* a medical condition characterized by abnormal hardening or increased density of bone tissue, which can be a result of various factors, including genetics, age, disease, or trauma

*synonym* : marble bone disease, sclerosing bone dysplasia

(1) **osteosclerosis** bone density, (2) localized **osteosclerosis**

The doctor diagnosed her with **osteosclerosis** of the spine, causing her chronic back pain.

## tinnitus

*n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear

*synonym* : ringing, buzzing, humming

(1) **tinnitus** treatment, (2) chronic **tinnitus**

She suffered from severe **tinnitus** after attending a loud concert without earplugs.

## enclose

*v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

*synonym* : surround, encase, contain

(1) **enclose** a check with a letter, (2) **enclose** area

The walls were **enclosed** to create a private outdoor space.

## cacophony

*n.* a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; a jarring or unpleasant noise or combination of sounds

*synonym* : discord, noise, dissonance

(1) **cacophony** of sound, (2) emotional **cacophony**

The construction next door has created a constant **cacophony** of drilling and hammering.

## clap

*v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

*synonym* : applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. br\_\_\_\_\_em function  
*n.* the part of the vertebrate central nervous system that is continuous with the spinal cord and is composed of the medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain, which controls many automatic functions of the body, such as heartbeat, breathing, and consciousness
2. a good au\_\_\_\_\_ry memory  
*adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
3. ty\_\_\_\_\_um membrane  
*n.* (of anatomy) the membrane-like structure within the ear that vibrates in response to sound waves, transmitting them to the inner ear for interpretation; (of architecture) the semi-circular or triangular decorative wall surface over an entrance, door, or window, which is bounded by a lintel and an arch
4. ca\_\_\_\_\_ny of sound  
*n.* a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; a jarring or unpleasant noise or combination of sounds
5. implanted co\_\_\_\_\_a  
*n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation
6. mo\_\_\_\_\_to repellent  
*n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

ANSWERS: 1. brainstem, 2. auditory, 3. tympanum, 4. cacophony, 5. cochlea, 6. mosquito

7. wh\_\_k him with a stick      *v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
8. incessant ca\_\_\_g      *n.* the act of making the characteristic loud, harsh, and repeated cry of a crow or raven
9. chronic ti\_\_\_\_us      *n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear
10. vi\_\_\_\_e with anger      *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
11. a sa\_\_\_\_\_er fish      *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
12. ci\_\_\_m movement      *n.* a microscopic, hair-like cellular projection that is found on the surface of many cells in the body, helping them to move or trap debris
13. primary ci\_\_\_m      *n.* a microscopic, hair-like cellular projection that is found on the surface of many cells in the body, helping them to move or trap debris
14. ost\_\_\_\_\_sis bone density      *n.* a medical condition characterized by abnormal hardening or increased density of bone tissue, which can be a result of various factors, including genetics, age, disease, or trauma
15. c\_\_p my hands      *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

ANSWERS: 7. whack, 8. cawing, 9. tinnitus, 10. vibrate, 11. saltwater, 12. cilium, 13. cilium, 14. osteosclerosis, 15. clap



16. at a mic\_\_\_\_\_nd rate *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
17. wh\_\_e about homework *v.* to utter a high-pitched, complaining sound, often in a tone that is irritating or grating to others; to express discontent or dissatisfaction in a persistent or annoying manner
18. pontine br\_\_\_\_\_em *n.* the part of the vertebrate central nervous system that is continuous with the spinal cord and is composed of the medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain, which controls many automatic functions of the body, such as heartbeat, breathing, and consciousness
19. emotional ca\_\_\_\_\_ny *n.* a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; a jarring or unpleasant noise or combination of sounds
20. of\_\_\_d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
21. freshly chopped ba\_\_l *n.* an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine
22. co\_\_\_\_\_a spiral *n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation
23. c\_\_p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

ANSWERS: 16. microsecond, 17. whine, 18. brainstem, 19. cacophony, 20. offend, 21. basil, 22. cochlea, 23. clap

24. 10 millimeters per mic\_\_\_\_\_nd      *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
25. an\_\_l stone      *n.* a heavy iron block with a flat top and a horn-like projection used as a working surface for forging, shaping, and hammering hot metal
26. dislocated st\_\_\_\_s      *n.* the smallest bone in the human body, located in the middle ear, also known as the stirrup bone, transmits sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear
27. localized ost\_\_\_\_\_sis      *n.* a medical condition characterized by abnormal hardening or increased density of bone tissue, which can be a result of various factors, including genetics, age, disease, or trauma
28. in\_\_\_\_\_fy diplomatic efforts      *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
29. wh\_\_e about the weather      *v.* to utter a high-pitched, complaining sound, often in a tone that is irritating or grating to others; to express discontent or dissatisfaction in a persistent or annoying manner
30. en\_\_\_\_\_e area      *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
31. immobile st\_\_\_\_s      *n.* the smallest bone in the human body, located in the middle ear, also known as the stirrup bone, transmits sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear

ANSWERS: 24. microsecond, 25. anvil, 26. stapes, 27. osteosclerosis, 28. intensify, 29. whine, 30. enclose, 31. stapes

32. g\_\_l family *n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers
33. au\_\_\_\_\_ry system *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
34. burst ea\_\_\_\_\_m *n.* a membrane in the middle ear that vibrates in response to sound waves and transmits the vibrations to the inner ear
35. mo\_\_\_\_\_to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
36. of\_\_\_\_d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
37. protect ea\_\_\_\_\_m *n.* a membrane in the middle ear that vibrates in response to sound waves and transmits the vibrations to the inner ear
38. sa\_\_\_\_\_er crocodile *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
39. in\_\_\_\_\_fy a good relationship *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
40. the distant ca\_\_\_\_g of seagulls *n.* the act of making the characteristic loud, harsh, and repeated cry of a crow or raven
41. ba\_\_l leaves *n.* an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine

ANSWERS: 32. gull, 33. auditory, 34. eardrum, 35. mosquito, 36. offend, 37. eardrum, 38. saltwater, 39. intensify, 40. cawing, 41. basil

42. The ty\_\_\_\_um sculpture on the cathedral
43. the hot metal on the an\_\_l
44. vi\_\_\_\_e at a regular frequency
45. en\_\_\_\_e a check with a letter
46. ti\_\_\_\_us treatment
47. wh\_\_k up the volume
48. a white sea g\_\_l
- n.* (of anatomy) the membrane-like structure within the ear that vibrates in response to sound waves, transmitting them to the inner ear for interpretation; (of architecture) the semi-circular or triangular decorative wall surface over an entrance, door, or window, which is bounded by a lintel and an arch
- n.* a heavy iron block with a flat top and a horn-like projection used as a working surface for forging, shaping, and hammering hot metal
- v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
- v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
- n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear
- v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
- n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers

ANSWERS: 42. tympanum, 43. anvil, 44. vibrate, 45. enclose, 46. tinnitus, 47. whack, 48. gull

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sound of the hammer hitting the \_\_\_\_\_ echoed through the workshop.  
*n.* a heavy iron block with a flat top and a horn-like projection used as a working surface for forging, shaping, and hammering hot metal
  
2. The microscopic analysis revealed a \_\_\_\_\_ presence on the single-celled organism's surface.  
*n.* a microscopic, hair-like cellular projection that is found on the surface of many cells in the body, helping them to move or trap debris
  
3. Because \_\_\_\_\_ are gliding birds, their wings are long and slender.  
*n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers
  
4. Rebels have pledged to \_\_\_\_\_ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.  
*v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
  
5. During the flight, the wings of the plane \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
  
6. She suffered from severe \_\_\_\_\_ after attending a loud concert without earplugs.  
*n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear
  
7. The construction next door has created a constant \_\_\_\_\_ of drilling and hammering.  
*n.* a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; a jarring or unpleasant noise or combination of sounds

ANSWERS: 1. anvil, 2. cilium's, 3. gulls, 4. intensify, 5. vibrate, 6. tinnitus, 7. cacophony

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the crows echoed through the quiet forest.
- n.* the act of making the characteristic loud, harsh, and repeated cry of a crow or raven
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.
- adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ bone is one of the three tiny bones in the middle ear that transmit sound vibrations.
- n.* the smallest bone in the human body, located in the middle ear, also known as the stirrup bone, transmits sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear
11. He \_\_\_\_\_ the ball out of the park with his home run.
- v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
12. His rude comments \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the party.
- v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
13. This process all happens within a \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
14. The child began to \_\_\_\_\_ when his mom said they couldn't go to the park.
- v.* to utter a high-pitched, complaining sound, often in a tone that is irritating or grating to others; to express discontent or dissatisfaction in a persistent or annoying manner
15. His ear infection affected the \_\_\_\_\_ function, causing temporary hearing loss.
- n.* (of anatomy) the membrane-like structure within the ear that vibrates in response to sound waves, transmitting them to the inner ear for interpretation; (of architecture) the semi-circular or triangular decorative wall surface over an entrance, door, or window, which is bounded by a lintel and an arch

ANSWERS: 8. cawing, 9. auditory, 10. stapes, 11. whacked, 12. offended, 13. microsecond, 14. whine, 15. tympanum

16. A stroke in the \_\_\_\_\_ can cause paralysis or even death.
- n.* the part of the vertebrate central nervous system that is continuous with the spinal cord and is composed of the medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain, which controls many automatic functions of the body, such as heartbeat, breathing, and consciousness
17. The loud noise ruptured my \_\_\_\_\_ and I had to go to the hospital.
- n.* a membrane in the middle ear that vibrates in response to sound waves and transmits the vibrations to the inner ear
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden was ready to be picked for tonight's pasta dish.
- n.* an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine
19. The walls were \_\_\_\_\_ to create a private outdoor space.
- v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
20. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
21. We \_\_\_\_\_ along with the singer's song.
- v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
22. The doctor diagnosed her with \_\_\_\_\_ of the spine, causing her chronic back pain.
- n.* a medical condition characterized by abnormal hardening or increased density of bone tissue, which can be a result of various factors, including genetics, age, disease, or trauma

ANSWERS: 16. brainstem, 17. eardrum, 18. basil, 19. enclosed, 20. mosquitos, 21. clapped, 22. osteosclerosis

23. Damage to the \_\_\_\_\_ can cause hearing loss or deafness.

*n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation

24. The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the \_\_\_\_\_ ecosystem downstream.

*adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea

ANSWERS: 23. cochlea, 24. saltwater