

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Janja Lalich: Why do people join cults? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/janja\\_lalich\\_why\\_do\\_people\\_join\\_cults](https://www.ted.com/talks/janja_lalich_why_do_people_join_cults)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### revere

v. to feel deep and profound respect or admiration for someone or something; to hold in high esteem

*synonym*: worship, venerate, admire

(1) **revere** a hero, (2) **revere** a deity

Many people **revere** their religious leaders and look up to them for guidance.

### horrify

v. to shock or disgust greatly

*synonym*: shock, dismay, terrify

(1) **horrify** audience, (2) **horrify** victims

The series of terrorist attacks **horrify** the entire nation.

### brainwash

v. to indoctrinate someone into a belief system or ideology by means of sustained persuasion or propaganda

*synonym*: indoctrinate, manipulate

(1) **brainwash** consumers into buying, (2) **brainwash** young people into joining

The cult leader tried to **brainwash** his followers into believing he was a god.

### communion

n. the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist

*synonym*: affinity, intimacy, camaraderie

(1) **communion** with God, (2) spiritual **communion** with nature

We use this tableware in a **communion** service.

## utopian

*adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

*synonym*: idealistic, perfectionistic, unrealistic

(1) **utopian** society, (2) **utopian** goal

He had a **utopian** vision of a world without war.

## grizzly

*n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair

*synonym*: bear, ursus, bruin

(1) **grizzly** size, (2) **grizzly** encounter

The hiker stumbled upon a **grizzly** bear in the woods and quickly retreated.

## immortalize

*v.* to prevent someone or something from being forgotten permanently

*synonym*: eternalize, perpetuate, memorialize

(1) **immortalize** a person in verse, (2) **immortalize** his name

This melody **immortalized** its composer.

## shorthand

*n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

*synonym*: stenography, speedwriting, tachygraphy

(1) learn **shorthand**, (2) write in **shorthand**

The secretary's **shorthand** was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

## slang

*n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal

context

*synonym*: lingo, jargon, vernacular

(1) **slang** phrases, (2) Internet **slang**

A lot of **slang** words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.

**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.

**charismatic**

*adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others

*synonym*: mesmerizing, alluring, captivating

(1) **charismatic** chairman, (2) **charismatic** personality

He was a **charismatic** leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.

**unsuspecting**

*adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious

*synonym*: unaware, unassuming, gullible

(1) **unsuspecting** boys and girls, (2) **unsuspecting** victim

The thief stole the wallet from the **unsuspecting** tourist.

**disbeliever**

*n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea

*synonym*: non-believer, skeptic, doubter

(1) persuade a **disbeliever**, (2) stubborn **disbeliever**

Despite the evidence, she remained a **disbeliever** in the theory of evolution.

**obedient**

*adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do

*synonym*: compliant, submissive, dutiful

(1) grow to be **obedient**, (2) **obedient** dog

The **obedient** dog followed its owner's commands.

## persuasive

*adj.* tending to make you want to do or believe a particular thing; convincing

*synonym* : convincing, compelling, influential

(1) **persuasive** advertising, (2) **persuasive** speaker

He made a **persuasive** argument for the new policy.

## authoritarian

*adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

*synonym* : dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

(1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

## narcissist

*n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements

*synonym* : egotist, boaster, braggart

(1) relationship with a **narcissist**, (2) somatic **narcissist**

He thinks she is a high **narcissist** because she always talks about herself and her accomplishments.

## motto

*n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

*synonym* : slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

## charisma

*n.* a compelling charm or attractiveness that can inspire devotion and admiration from others, often associated with leadership or celebrity status

*synonym* : magnetism, allure, charm

(1) crowd-pulling **charisma**, (2) natural **charisma**

The politician's **charisma** won over the crowd at the rally.

## loneliness

*n.* a state or feeling of being unhappy because you have no connection with other people

*synonym* : isolation, alienation, desolation

(1) a strong sense of **loneliness**, (2) remedy **loneliness**

I realize the **loneliness** of a single life.

## indoctrinate

*v.* to teach a person or group of people to accept a set of beliefs uncritically

*synonym* : brainwash, educate, instruct

(1) **indoctrinate** youth, (2) **indoctrinate** ideology

The government attempted to **indoctrinate** the population with its propaganda.

## inclination

*n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping

*synonym* : tendency, preference, angle

(1) consumer's **inclination** to spend, (2) the **inclination** of a slope

She had an **inclination** towards the arts.

## mimic

*v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

*synonym* : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

## coercive

*adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion

*synonym* : force, compel, pressure

(1) **coercive** behavior, (2) use **coercive** measures

The politician used **coercive** tactics to convince the public to support their policies.

## 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**.

## discotheque

*n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance

*synonym*: nightclub, dance club, disco

(1) **discotheque** party, (2) **discotheque** scene

He couldn't wait to hit the **discotheque** and dance the night away.

## dissonance

*n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds

*synonym*: conflict, disharmony, disagreement

(1) cognitive **dissonance**, (2) musical **dissonance**

The **dissonance** between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.

## deceive

*v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression

*synonym*: mislead, dupe, hoodwink

(1) **deceive** to lie, (2) **deceive** skillfully

The magician's illusions were designed to **deceive** the audience into believing they saw something impossible.

## 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.

## deprive

*v.* to take away something from someone

*synonym*: deny, take away, divest

(1) **deprive** others of profit, (2) **deprive** him of his status

He was **deprived** of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. persuade a dis\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
2. somatic nar\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements
3. musical dis\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
4. stubborn dis\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
5. de\_\_\_\_\_e to lie *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
6. spiritual co\_\_\_\_\_on with nature *n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist
7. the inc\_\_\_\_\_on of a slope *n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping
8. 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: 1. disbeliever, 2. narcissist, 3. dissonance, 4. disbeliever, 5. deceive, 6. communion, 7. inclination, 8. stunt



9. sl\_\_g phrases *n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
10. aut\_\_\_\_\_ian practice *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
11. co\_\_\_\_\_ve behavior *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion
12. Internet sl\_\_g *n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
13. dis\_\_\_\_\_ue party *n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
14. cha\_\_\_\_\_ic chairman *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
15. per\_\_\_\_\_ve speaker *adj.* tending to make you want to do or believe a particular thing; convincing
16. use co\_\_\_\_\_ve measures *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion

ANSWERS: 9. slang, 10. authoritarian, 11. coercive, 12. slang, 13. discotheque, 14. charismatic, 15. persuasive, 16. coercive

17. remedy lon\_\_\_\_\_ss *n.* a state or feeling of being unhappy because you have no connection with other people
18. write in sh\_\_\_\_\_nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
19. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing boys and girls *adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
20. re\_\_\_e a hero *v.* to feel deep and profound respect or admiration for someone or something; to hold in high esteem
21. ho\_\_\_\_\_y audience *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
22. gr\_\_\_\_\_y size *n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair
23. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing victim *adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
24. ut\_\_\_\_\_n goal *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
25. cha\_\_\_\_\_ic personality *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
26. de\_\_\_\_\_e others of profit *v.* to take away something from someone

ANSWERS: 17. loneliness, 18. shorthand, 19. unsuspecting, 20. revere, 21. horrify, 22. grizzly, 23. unsuspecting, 24. utopian, 25. charismatic, 26. deprive

27. re\_\_\_e a deity *v.* to feel deep and profound respect or admiration for someone or something; to hold in high esteem
28. mi\_\_c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
29. ind\_\_\_\_\_ate ideology *v.* to teach a person or group of people to accept a set of beliefs uncritically
30. imm\_\_\_\_\_ze a person in verse *v.* to prevent someone or something from being forgotten permanently
31. the mo\_\_o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
32. gr\_\_\_\_\_y encounter *n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair
33. crowd-pulling ch\_\_\_\_\_ma *n.* a compelling charm or attractiveness that can inspire devotion and admiration from others, often associated with leadership or celebrity status
34. de\_\_\_\_\_e skillfully *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
35. ob\_\_\_\_\_nt dog *adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
36. consumer's inc\_\_\_\_\_on to spend *n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping
37. st\_\_t brain growth *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: 27. revere, 28. mimic, 29. indoctrinate, 30. immortalize, 31. motto, 32. grizzly, 33. charisma, 34. deceive, 35. obedient, 36. inclination, 37. stunt

38. br\_\_\_\_\_sh young people into joining     *v.* to indoctrinate someone into a belief system or ideology by means of sustained persuasion or propaganda
39. dis\_\_\_\_\_ue scene     *n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
40. grow to be ob\_\_\_\_\_nt     *adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
41. 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
42. ind\_\_\_\_\_ate youth     *v.* to teach a person or group of people to accept a set of beliefs uncritically
43. em\_\_\_y my goal     *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
44. em\_\_\_y a spirit of charity     *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
45. cognitive dis\_\_\_\_\_ce     *n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
46. per\_\_\_\_\_ve advertising     *adj.* tending to make you want to do or believe a particular thing; convincing
47. co\_\_\_\_\_on with God     *n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist
48. br\_\_\_\_\_sh consumers into buying     *v.* to indoctrinate someone into a belief system or ideology by means of sustained persuasion or propaganda

ANSWERS: 38. brainwash, 39. discotheque, 40. obedient, 41. sham, 42. indoctrinate, 43. embody, 44. embody, 45. dissonance, 46. persuasive, 47. communion, 48. brainwash

49. ho\_\_\_\_y victims *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
50. mi\_\_c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
51. 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
52. de\_\_\_\_\_e him of his status *v.* to take away something from someone
53. ut\_\_\_\_\_n society *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
54. company mo\_\_o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
55. aut\_\_\_\_\_ian government *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
56. learn sh\_\_\_\_\_nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
57. a strong sense of lon\_\_\_\_\_ss *n.* a state or feeling of being unhappy because you have no connection with other people
58. imm\_\_\_\_\_ze his name *v.* to prevent someone or something from being forgotten permanently

ANSWERS: 49. horrify, 50. mimic, 51. sham, 52. deprive, 53. utopian, 54. motto, 55. authoritarian, 56. shorthand, 57. loneliness, 58. immortalize

59. relationship with a nar\_\_\_\_\_st

*n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements

60. natural ch\_\_\_\_\_ma

*n.* a compelling charm or attractiveness that can inspire devotion and admiration from others, often associated with leadership or celebrity status

ANSWERS: 59. narcissist, 60. charisma

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The series of terrorist attacks \_\_\_\_\_ the entire nation.  
*v.* to shock or disgust greatly
  
2. 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
  
3. We use this tableware in a \_\_\_\_\_ service.  
*n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist
  
4. The magician's illusions were designed to \_\_\_\_\_ the audience into believing they saw something impossible.  
*v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
  
5. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ argument for the new policy.  
*adj.* tending to make you want to do or believe a particular thing; convincing
  
6. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.  
*adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
  
7. The politician used \_\_\_\_\_ tactics to convince the public to support their policies.  
*adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion

ANSWERS: 1. horrify, 2. sham, 3. communion, 4. deceive, 5. persuasive, 6. charismatic, 7. coercive

8. The government attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the population with its propaganda.  
*v.* to teach a person or group of people to accept a set of beliefs uncritically
9. The hiker stumbled upon a \_\_\_\_\_ bear in the woods and quickly retreated.  
*n.* a large North American bear species, often with greyish or brownish fur; a person who has streaks of grey or white hair
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ dog followed its owner's commands.  
*adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
11. 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
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.  
*n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
13. The cult leader tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his followers into believing he was a god.  
*v.* to indoctrinate someone into a belief system or ideology by means of sustained persuasion or propaganda
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. indoctrinate, 9. grizzly, 10. obedient, 11. stunt, 12. dissonance, 13. brainwash, 14. embody



15. The secretary's \_\_\_\_\_ was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

- n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

16. I realize the \_\_\_\_\_ of a single life.

- n.* a state or feeling of being unhappy because you have no connection with other people

17. He couldn't wait to hit the \_\_\_\_\_ and dance the night away.

- n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance

18. He thinks she is a high \_\_\_\_\_ because she always talks about herself and her accomplishments.

- n.* a person who is excessively self-absorbed, especially regarding their appearance or achievements

19. He is very popular at school because he can \_\_\_\_\_ all the teachers' accents.

- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

20. The \_\_\_\_\_ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

- adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

21. The thief stole the wallet from the \_\_\_\_\_ tourist.

- adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious

ANSWERS: 15. shorthand, 16. loneliness, 17. discotheque, 18. narcissist, 19. mimic, 20. authoritarian, 21. unsuspecting

22. She had an \_\_\_\_\_ towards the arts.  
*n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping
23. Despite the evidence, she remained a \_\_\_\_\_ in the theory of evolution.  
*n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
24. The politician's \_\_\_\_\_ won over the crowd at the rally.  
*n.* a compelling charm or attractiveness that can inspire devotion and admiration from others, often associated with leadership or celebrity status
25. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ their religious leaders and look up to them for guidance.  
*v.* to feel deep and profound respect or admiration for someone or something; to hold in high esteem
26. This melody \_\_\_\_\_ its composer.  
*v.* to prevent someone or something from being forgotten permanently
27. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ vision of a world without war.  
*adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
28. The company's \_\_\_\_\_ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.  
*n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
29. A lot of \_\_\_\_\_ words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.  
*n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context

ANSWERS: 22. inclination, 23. disbeliever, 24. charisma, 25. revere, 26. immortalized, 27. utopian, 28. motto, 29. slang

30. He was \_\_\_\_\_ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

v. to take away something from someone

ANSWERS: 30. deprived