

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Asha de Vos: Why you should care about whale poo | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/asha\\_de\\_vos\\_why\\_you\\_should\\_care\\_about\\_whale\\_poo](https://www.ted.com/talks/asha_de_vos_why_you_should_care_about_whale_poo)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

## Session 1: Word List

### cape

*n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water

*synonym* : shawl, cloak, mantle

(1) **cape** cod, (2) red **cape**

The superhero wore a flowing **cape** as part of their costume.

### drastic

*adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

*synonym* : extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

### conservationist

*n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife

*synonym* : environmentalist

(1) wildlife **conservationist**, (2) dedicated **conservationist**

The extinction of this species has been a significant concern for **conservationists**.

### 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.

## disservice

*n.* an action that causes harm or damage; something that is detrimental or disadvantageous; the opposite of a favor

*synonym* : injury, harm, disadvantage

(1) social **disservice**, (2) **disservice** to the public  
It would be a great **disservice** not to recognize her achievements in the field.

## resilient

*adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

*synonym* : robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population  
She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

## rot

*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

*synonym* : perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age  
Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

## carcass

*n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food

*synonym* : corpse, remains, body

(1) examine a **carcass**, (2) **carcass** disposal  
The animal's **carcass** was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.

## feces

*n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement  
*synonym* : poop, stool, excrement

(1) **feces** sample, (2) human **feces**

Proper disposal of **feces** is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

## plume

*n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

*synonym*: feather, honor, token

(1) **plume** of smoke, (2) **plume** of feathers

The bird had a beautiful **plume** on its head.

## phytoplankton

*n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed

(1) marine **phytoplankton**, (2) **phytoplankton** blooms

She studies the relationship between marine creatures' toxicity and the **phytoplankton** they feed on.

## calve

*v.* (of glaciology) to break off or shed smaller masses of ice; (of animal breeding) to give birth to a calf

*synonym*: give birth, break off, splinter

(1) **calve** from the glacier, (2) **calve** early in the morning

As global temperatures rise, more icebergs **calve** off from the polar ice caps.

## detritus

*n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas

*synonym*: debris, waste, garbage

(1) **detritus** pile, (2) **detritus** removal

The beach was littered with **detritus** and trash left behind by careless visitors.

## eel

*n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins

(1) glass **eel**, (2) electric **eel**

The fisherman caught a slippery **eel** while out on the lake.

## slime

*n.* a thick, slippery substance that is usually soft and wet  
*synonym* : muck, ooze, gunk

(1) **slime** bacteria, (2) **slime** mold

The kids loved playing with the green **slime**, but it was a nightmare to clean up.

## hagfish

*n.* a jawless fish that has a slimy, eel-like body and is known for its ability to secrete a large amount of mucous when threatened

*synonym* : slime eel, snot snake

(1) **hagfish** slime, (2) pacific **hagfish**

When threatened, deep-sea **hagfish** release a slime that can expand up to five gallons when mixed with water, making it difficult for predators to keep hold of them.

## descend

*v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

*synonym* : dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator

She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

## predatory

*adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive

*synonym* : raptorial, hunting, greedy

(1) a **predatory** bird, (2) **predatory** warfare

The domesticated cat still has its **predatory** instincts.

## detrimental

*adj.* causing harm or damage

*synonym* : harmful, damaging, injurious

(1) **detrimental** eating habits, (2) **detrimental** to good health

The new policy had a **detrimental** impact on small businesses.

## plow

*n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting

### crops

*synonym* : plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

### entangle

v. to become twisted or knotted together, especially in a way that makes it difficult to separate them; to involve in something complicated or difficult to escape

*synonym* : ensnare, entrap, involve

(1) **entangle** in wires, (2) emotionally **entangle**

The vines of the plant **entangled** themselves around the trellis.

### contextualize

v. to place or understand something within a specific context or framework; to consider the circumstances, background, or cultural setting that provide meaning or significance to something

*synonym* : analyze, interpret, place in context

(1) **contextualize** information, (2) **contextualize** social issues

The teacher asked the students to **contextualize** their answers with relevant examples.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. re\_\_\_\_\_nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
2. deeply p\_\_w the soil *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
3. det\_\_\_\_\_al to good health *adj.* causing harm or damage
4. pl\_\_e of feathers *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
5. pr\_\_\_\_\_ry warfare *adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
6. begin to r\_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
7. make dr\_\_\_\_\_c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
8. red c\_\_e *n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
9. con\_\_\_\_\_ize social issues *v.* to place or understand something within a specific context or framework; to consider the circumstances, background, or cultural setting that provide meaning or significance to something

ANSWERS: 1. resilient, 2. plow, 3. detrimental, 4. plume, 5. predatory, 6. rot, 7. drastic, 8. cape, 9. contextualize

10. a pr\_\_\_\_\_ry bird *adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
11. c\_\_e cod *n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
12. dedicated con\_\_\_\_\_ist *n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife
13. en\_\_\_\_\_le in wires *v.* to become twisted or knotted together, especially in a way that makes it difficult to separate them; to involve in something complicated or difficult to escape
14. p\_\_w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
15. social dis\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* an action that causes harm or damage; something that is detrimental or disadvantageous; the opposite of a favor
16. de\_\_\_\_\_d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
17. dis\_\_\_\_\_ce to the public *n.* an action that causes harm or damage; something that is detrimental or disadvantageous; the opposite of a favor

ANSWERS: 10. predatory, 11. cape, 12. conservationist, 13. entangle, 14. plow, 15. disservice, 16. descend, 17. disservice

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 18. det_____al eating habits   | <i>adj.</i> causing harm or damage  |
| 19. r_t with age               | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually  |
| 20. emotionally en_____le      | <i>v.</i> to become twisted or knotted together, especially in a way that makes it difficult to separate them; to involve in something complicated or difficult to escape |
| 21. sl__e mold                 | <i>n.</i> a thick, slippery substance that is usually soft and wet  |
| 22. pacific ha_____h           | <i>n.</i> a jawless fish that has a slimy, eel-like body and is known for its ability to secrete a large amount of mucous when threatened                                 |
| 23. ca__e early in the morning | <i>v.</i> (of glaciology) to break off or shed smaller masses of ice; (of animal breeding) to give birth to a calf  |
| 24. cha_____ic chairman        | <i>adj.</i> having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others  |
| 25. ca__e from the glacier     | <i>v.</i> (of glaciology) to break off or shed smaller masses of ice; (of animal breeding) to give birth to a calf  |
| 26. marine phy_____ton         | <i>n.</i> tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed   |
| 27. fe__s sample               | <i>n.</i> waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement  |
| 28. de_____d by elevator       | <i>v.</i> to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood   |

ANSWERS: 18. detrimental, 19. rot, 20. entangle, 21. slime, 22. hagfish, 23. calve, 24. charismatic, 25. calve, 26. phytoplankton, 27. feces, 28. descend



29. cha\_\_\_\_\_ic personality *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
30. de\_\_\_\_\_us removal *n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas
31. ca\_\_\_\_\_s disposal *n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
32. electric e\_l *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
33. pl\_\_e of smoke *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
34. sl\_\_e bacteria *n.* a thick, slippery substance that is usually soft and wet
35. glass e\_l *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
36. human fe\_\_s *n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
37. dr\_\_\_\_\_c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
38. de\_\_\_\_\_us pile *n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas

ANSWERS: 29. charismatic, 30. detritus, 31. carcass, 32. eel, 33. plume, 34. slime, 35. eel, 36. feces, 37. drastic, 38. detritus

39. phy\_\_\_\_\_ton blooms *n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed
40. ha\_\_\_\_\_h slime *n.* a jawless fish that has a slimy, eel-like body and is known for its ability to secrete a large amount of mucous when threatened
41. wildlife con\_\_\_\_\_ist *n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife
42. examine a ca\_\_\_\_\_s *n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
43. a hard and re\_\_\_\_\_nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
44. con\_\_\_\_\_ize information *v.* to place or understand something within a specific context or framework; to consider the circumstances, background, or cultural setting that provide meaning or significance to something

ANSWERS: 39. phytoplankton, 40. hagfish, 41. conservationist, 42. carcass, 43. resilient, 44. contextualize

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The fisherman caught a slippery \_\_\_\_ while out on the lake.  
*n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
  
2. The vines of the plant \_\_\_\_\_ themselves around the trellis.  
*v.* to become twisted or knotted together, especially in a way that makes it difficult to separate them; to involve in something complicated or difficult to escape
  
3. The new policy had a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on small businesses.  
*adj.* causing harm or damage
  
4. The global community is undergoing \_\_\_\_\_ changes at present.  
*adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
  
5. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.  
*adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
  
6. The extinction of this species has been a significant concern for \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife
  
7. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

ANSWERS: 1. eel, 2. entangled, 3. detrimental, 4. drastic, 5. charismatic, 6. conservationists, 7. plow

8. The domesticated cat still has its \_\_\_\_\_ instincts.  
*adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
9. She studies the relationship between marine creatures' toxicity and the \_\_\_\_\_ they feed on.  
*n.* tiny little plants that float on the surface of the water and on which sea creatures feed
10. It would be a great \_\_\_\_\_ not to recognize her achievements in the field.  
*n.* an action that causes harm or damage; something that is detrimental or disadvantageous; the opposite of a favor
11. The bird had a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ on its head.  
*n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
12. The teacher asked the students to \_\_\_\_\_ their answers with relevant examples.  
*v.* to place or understand something within a specific context or framework; to consider the circumstances, background, or cultural setting that provide meaning or significance to something
13. She was \_\_\_\_\_ from an old Italian noble family.  
*v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
14. The kids loved playing with the green \_\_\_\_\_ but it was a nightmare to clean up.  
*n.* a thick, slippery substance that is usually soft and wet
15. The animal's \_\_\_\_\_ was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.  
*n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food

ANSWERS: 8. predatory, 9. phytoplankton, 10. disservice, 11. plume, 12. contextualize, 13. descended, 14. slime, 15. carcass

16. As global temperatures rise, more icebergs \_\_\_\_\_ off from the polar ice caps.  
*v.* (of glaciology) to break off or shed smaller masses of ice; (of animal breeding) to give birth to a calf
17. The beach was littered with \_\_\_\_\_ and trash left behind by careless visitors.  
*n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas
18. Proper disposal of \_\_\_\_\_ is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.  
*n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
19. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
20. When threatened, deep-sea \_\_\_\_\_ release a slime that can expand up to five gallons when mixed with water, making it difficult for predators to keep hold of them.  
*n.* a jawless fish that has a slimy, eel-like body and is known for its ability to secrete a large amount of mucous when threatened
21. She is a \_\_\_\_\_ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.  
*adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
22. The superhero wore a flowing \_\_\_\_\_ as part of their costume.  
*n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water

ANSWERS: 16. calve, 17. detritus, 18. feces, 19. rot, 20. hagfish, 21. resilient, 22. cape