

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Celeste Headlee: 10 ways to have a better conversation | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste\\_headlee\\_10\\_ways\\_to\\_have\\_a\\_better\\_conversation](https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste_headlee_10_ways_to_have_a_better_conversation)

### 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

### devolve

- v.* to transfer or delegate responsibility, power, or authority to someone else, often as a result of a process or procedure; to degrade, deteriorate, or regress to a less advanced or more primitive state or form

*synonym* : degenerate, drop, decline

- (1) **devolve** into chaos, (2) **devolve** his rights

As time has passed, the responsibility has **devolved** to the younger generation.

### pew

- n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services

*synonym* : seat, church bench

- (1) empty **pew**, (2) wooden **pew**

The church was filled with people sitting on the **pews**, listening to the sermon.

### smartphone

- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

- (1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

## overlook

*v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

*synonym*: disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## billionaire

*n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars

*synonym*: mega-rich, wealthy, tycoon

(1) Silicon Valley **billionaire**, (2) oil **billionaire**

The self-made **billionaire** donated millions to charity.

## plumber

*n.* a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system

*synonym*: pipefitter, pipeline engineer

(1) **plumber's** wrench, (2) licensed **plumber**

I had to call a **plumber** to fix the leaky faucet in my bathroom.

## nod

*v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

*synonym*: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

## 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.

## multitasking

*n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time

*synonym* : juggling, multihandling, parallelism

(1) computer **multitasking**, (2) **multitasking** ability

She could finish all her work on time because of her **multitasking** skills.

## pontificate

*v.* to speak or act in a pretentiously authoritative or dogmatic manner; to preach or expound at length on a subject, especially in a pompous or condescending way

*synonym* : lecture, preach, sermonize

(1) **pontificate** on a topic, (2) **pontificate** about religion

He loved to **pontificate** about politics but often failed to take action.

## pundit

*n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

*synonym* : expert, commentator, punditry

(1) conservative **pundit**, (2) sports **pundit**

The political **pundit** provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.

## peck

*v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

*synonym* : beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

## recess

*n.* a period of time when the members of a parliament, committee, etc., are adjourned; a short break in a trial in court

*synonym* : break, interval, pause

(1) a court **recess**, (2) during noon **recess**

The company decided to take a **recess** and reconvene the

meeting later that day.

## open-ended

*adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response

*synonym* : unlimited, unrestricted, flexible

(1) an **open-ended** discussion, (2) **open-ended** agreements

Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the **open-ended** ending.

## terrify

*v.* to frighten someone very much

*synonym* : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

## determinant

*n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

*synonym* : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

## equate

*v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

*synonym* : associate, liken, relate

(1) **equate** mistakes with failure, (2) **equate** to legal responsibility

It isn't very reasonable to **equate** money with happiness.

## hawk

*n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

*synonym* : militarist, jingo, aggressor

(1) cast off a **hawk**, (2) congressional **hawk**  
That team signed a center forward who was a ball- **hawk**.

## brag

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

*synonym*: boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

## condescending

*adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing

*synonym*: patronizing, superior, haughty

(1) **condescending** tone, (2) **condescending** smile

He had a **condescending** attitude towards those less fortunate than himself.

## rephrase

v. to express or state something in a different or alternative way, usually to make it clearer, easier to understand, or more appropriate for a particular context or audience

*synonym*: reword, paraphrase, restate

(1) **rephrase** a sentence, (2) **rephrase** the question

Let me **rephrase** what you just said in simpler terms.

## paraphrase

v. to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning

*synonym*: rephrase, reword, reinterpret

(1) **paraphrase** a poem into prose, (2) **paraphrase** the meaning

He **paraphrased** the article in his own words to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

## bolster

v. to support or strengthen, often by adding extra assistance or resources

*synonym*: reinforce, support, strengthen

(1) **bolster** confidence, (2) **bolster** the economy

The company hired a new advertising agency to **bolster** its

marketing efforts.

## distracted

*adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

*synonym*: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

## covey

*n.* a small group or a flock of birds, usually game birds; a small group of people or things

*synonym*: flock, brood, set

(1) **covey** of opportunities, (2) **covey** of friends

The **covey** of quails scurried into the underbrush when they heard the hunter's footsteps.

## grandparent

*n.* a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

## amaze

*v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

*synonym*: astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

## disappoint

*v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

*synonym*: sadden, dismay, frustrate

(1) **disappoint** the audience, (2) don't **disappoint** me

She worked very hard not to **disappoint** her boss's expectations.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                              |    |  |
|------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. de_____e his rights       | v. | to transfer or delegate responsibility, power, or authority to someone else, often as a result of a process or procedure; to degrade, deteriorate, or regress to a less advanced or more primitive state or form |
| 2. of____d a customer        | v. | to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed  |
| 3. mul_____ing ability       | n. | the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time  |
| 4. co__y of friends          | n. | a small group or a flock of birds, usually game birds; a small group of people or things   |
| 5. cast off a h__k           | n. | a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations  |
| 6. pl_____r's wrench         | n. | a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system   |
| 7. p__k at feed              | v. | to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble  |
| 8. pon_____te about religion | v. | to speak or act in a pretentiously authoritative or dogmatic manner; to preach or expound at length on a subject, especially in a pompous or condescending way   |

ANSWERS: 1. devolve, 2. offend, 3. multitasking, 4. covey, 5. hawk, 6. plumber, 7. peck, 8. pontificate

9. am\_\_e everyone                    *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
10. eq\_\_\_e to legal responsibility                    *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
11. con\_\_\_\_\_ing tone                    *adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
12. n\_d courteously                    *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
13. ov\_\_\_\_\_ok a street                    *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
14. a court re\_\_\_s                    *n.* a period of time when the members of a parliament, committee, etc., are adjourned; a short break in a trial in court
15. bo\_\_\_\_\_r the economy                    *v.* to support or strengthen, often by adding extra assistance or resources
16. a det\_\_\_\_\_nt of crop yields                    *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
17. re\_\_\_\_\_se the question                    *v.* to express or state something in a different or alternative way, usually to make it clearer, easier to understand, or more appropriate for a particular context or audience
18. don't dis\_\_\_\_\_nt me                    *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

ANSWERS: 9. amaze, 10. equate, 11. condescending, 12. nod, 13. overlook, 14. recess, 15. bolster, 16. determinant, 17. rephrase, 18. disappoint



19. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. licensed pl\_\_\_\_\_r *n.* a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system
21. p\_\_k on the cheek *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
22. ope\_\_\_\_\_ed agreements *adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response
23. de\_\_\_\_\_e into chaos *v.* to transfer or delegate responsibility, power, or authority to someone else, often as a result of a process or procedure; to degrade, deteriorate, or regress to a less advanced or more primitive state or form
24. b\_\_g about my knowledge *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
25. empty p\_w *n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services
26. n\_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
27. par\_\_\_\_\_se a poem into prose *v.* to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning

ANSWERS: 19. opportune, 20. plumber, 21. peck, 22. open-ended, 23. devolve, 24. brag, 25. pew, 26. nod, 27. paraphrase

28. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed by a conversation      *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
29. the threats te\_\_\_\_\_y him      *v.* to frighten someone very much
30. te\_\_\_\_\_y people      *v.* to frighten someone very much
31. congressional h\_\_k      *n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
32. of\_\_\_d his sensibilities      *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
33. wooden p\_w      *n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services
34. oil bil\_\_\_\_\_re      *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
35. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
36. re\_\_\_\_\_se a sentence      *v.* to express or state something in a different or alternative way, usually to make it clearer, easier to understand, or more appropriate for a particular context or audience
37. an ope\_\_\_\_\_ed discussion      *adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response

ANSWERS: 28. distracted, 29. terrify, 30. terrify, 31. hawk, 32. offend, 33. pew, 34. billionaire, 35. opportune, 36. rephrase, 37. open-ended

38. bo\_\_\_\_r confidence *v.* to support or strengthen, often by adding extra assistance or resources
39. sma\_\_\_\_\_ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
40. con\_\_\_\_\_ing smile *adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
41. sports pu\_\_\_\_t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
42. get dis\_\_\_\_\_ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
43. sma\_\_\_\_\_ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
44. ov\_\_\_\_\_ok that fact *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
45. co\_\_y of opportunities *n.* a small group or a flock of birds, usually game birds; a small group of people or things
46. eq\_\_\_e mistakes with failure *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
47. par\_\_\_\_\_se the meaning *v.* to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning
48. am\_\_e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 38. bolster, 39. smartphone, 40. condescending, 41. pundit, 42. distracted, 43. smartphone, 44. overlook, 45. covey, 46. equate, 47. paraphrase, 48. amaze

49. great-gra\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
50. environmental det\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
51. pon\_\_\_\_\_te on a topic *v.* to speak or act in a pretentiously authoritative or dogmatic manner; to preach or expound at length on a subject, especially in a pompous or condescending way
52. person of gra\_\_\_\_\_nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
53. conservative pu\_\_\_\_t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
54. during noon re\_\_\_\_s *n.* a period of time when the members of a parliament, committee, etc., are adjourned; a short break in a trial in court
55. b\_\_g to each other *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
56. computer mul\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
57. Silicon Valley bil\_\_\_\_\_re *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
58. dis\_\_\_\_\_nt the audience *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

ANSWERS: 49. grandparent, 50. determinant, 51. pontificate, 52. grandparent, 53. pundit, 54. recess, 55. brag, 56. multitasking, 57. billionaire, 58. disappoint

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It isn't very reasonable to \_\_\_\_\_ money with happiness.  
*v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
  
2. The wood\_\_\_\_\_ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.  
*v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
  
3. I was so \_\_\_\_\_ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.  
*adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
  
4. The political \_\_\_\_\_ provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.  
*n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
  
5. The company decided to take a \_\_\_\_\_ and reconvene the meeting later that day.  
*n.* a period of time when the members of a parliament, committee, etc., are adjourned; a short break in a trial in court
  
6. One \_\_\_\_\_ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.  
*n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
  
7. It would be best not to \_\_\_\_\_ your associates into doing complex tasks.  
*v.* to frighten someone very much

ANSWERS: 1. equate, 2. pecker, 3. distracted, 4. pundit, 5. recess, 6. determinant, 7. terrify

8. As time has passed, the responsibility has \_\_\_\_\_ to the younger generation.
- v.* to transfer or delegate responsibility, power, or authority to someone else, often as a result of a process or procedure; to degrade, deteriorate, or regress to a less advanced or more primitive state or form
9. The self-made \_\_\_\_\_ donated millions to charity.
- n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
10. He loved to \_\_\_\_\_ about politics but often failed to take action.
- v.* to speak or act in a pretentiously authoritative or dogmatic manner; to preach or expound at length on a subject, especially in a pompous or condescending way
11. That team signed a center forward who was a ball-\_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
12. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
13. She \_\_\_\_\_ quietly in response to the question.
- v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ of quails scurried into the underbrush when they heard the hunter's footsteps.
- n.* a small group or a flock of birds, usually game birds; a small group of people or things
15. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ an opportunity for great success.
- v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

ANSWERS: 8. devolved, 9. billionaire, 10. pontificate, 11. hawk, 12. opportune, 13. nodded, 14. covey, 15. overlook

16. She worked very hard not to \_\_\_\_\_ her boss's expectations.
- v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
17. She could finish all her work on time because of her \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
- n. the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
18. His rude comments \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the party.
- v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
19. I had to call a \_\_\_\_\_ to fix the leaky faucet in my bathroom.
- n. a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system
20. He \_\_\_\_\_ the article in his own words to avoid being accused of plagiarism.
- v. to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning
21. Let me \_\_\_\_\_ what you just said in simpler terms.
- v. to express or state something in a different or alternative way, usually to make it clearer, easier to understand, or more appropriate for a particular context or audience
22. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from \_\_\_\_\_ about his success.
- v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

ANSWERS: 16. disappoint, 17. multitasking, 18. offended, 19. plumber, 20. paraphrased, 21. rephrase, 22. bragging



23. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
24. She was close to her paternal \_\_\_\_\_ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother
25. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude towards those less fortunate than himself.
- adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
26. The church was filled with people sitting on the \_\_\_\_\_ listening to the sermon.
- n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services
27. The magician's tricks \_\_\_\_\_ the audience.
- v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
28. The company hired a new advertising agency to \_\_\_\_\_ its marketing efforts.
- v.* to support or strengthen, often by adding extra assistance or resources
29. Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the \_\_\_\_\_ ending.
- adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response

ANSWERS: 23. smartphones, 24. grandparents, 25. condescending, 26. pews, 27. amazed, 28. bolster, 29. open-ended