

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Stephanie Honchell Smith: The merciless mercenaries of the Italian Renaissance | TED Talk*  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/stephanie\\_honchell\\_smith\\_the\\_merciless\\_mercenaries\\_of\\_the\\_italian\\_renaissance](https://www.ted.com/talks/stephanie_honchell_smith_the_merciless_mercenaries_of_the_italian_renaissance)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### mercenary

*n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment

*synonym*: soldier of fortune, financially-motivated

(1) **mercenary** killers, (2) a **mercenary** enterprise

It would be best if you did your work without any **mercenary** spirit.

### counterattack

*n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it

*synonym*: retaliation, reprisal, response

(1) gear up for a **counterattack**, (2) launch a **counterattack**

The company launched a **counterattack** against its rivals with a new marketing campaign.

### cowardice

*n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty

*synonym*: fearfulness, dastardliness, timidity

(1) **cowardice** in battle, (2) politics of **cowardice**

People who show **cowardice** in the face of danger are not always weak but may lack experience.

## conquest

*n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation

*synonym*: subjugation, domination, mastery

(1) imperial **conquest**, (2) make a **conquest**

He continued to grow his empire through **conquest**.

## rivalry

*n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

*synonym*: competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

## Catholic

*adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church

Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.

## prestige

*n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality

*synonym*: honor, distinction, reputation

(1) national **prestige**, (2) **prestige** company

The university has great **prestige** in the academic community.

## Renaissance

*n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

*synonym*: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

## hail

*v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

*synonym*: greet, salute, welcome

(1) **hail** the victorious team with cheers, (2) **hail** forecast  
People in the area were forced to **hail** a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.

## truce

*n.* a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement

*synonym*: ceasefire, armistice, peace

(1) temporary **truce**, (2) break a **truce**

The two sides agreed to a **truce** and set down their weapons.

## pillage

*n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way

*synonym*: looting, plunder, raid

(1) violent **pillage**, (2) **pillage** gold and other treasures

The army's village **pillage** left the residents without food or shelter.

## bandit

*n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others

*synonym*: robber, thief, outlaw

(1) wilderness **bandit**, (2) notorious **bandit**

A group of armed **bandits** attacked the villagers during the night.

## 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.

## leash

*n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

*synonym* : tether, lead, restraint

(1) dog **leash**, (2) walk on a **leash**

Make sure to put the **leash** on your dog before walking.

## synonymous

*adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase

*synonym* : equivalent, interchangeable, similar

(1) **synonymous** terms, (2) non- **synonymous** mutation

The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are **synonymous**.

## plunder

*v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

*synonym* : pillage, loot, despoil

(1) **plunder** the enemy's stronghold, (2) **plunder** his reputation

The pirates could **plunder** the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.

## inconclusive

*adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision

*synonym* : ambiguous, unsettled, uncertain

(1) **inconclusive** debate, (2) **inconclusive** evidence

Climate behavior models are frequently **inconclusive**.

## ruthless

*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

*synonym* : heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality

The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

## massacre

*n.* the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals

*synonym* : slaughter, bloodbath, butchery

(1) **massacre** in the village, (2) animal **massacre**

The **massacre** of innocent civilians in the war zone was a tragic event.

## famine

*n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

*synonym*: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

## revolt

*n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

*synonym*: rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

## dynasty

*n.* a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

(1) **dynasty** of China, (2) during the Ming **dynasty**

During the Habsburg **dynasty**, colonization began.

## outclass

*v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance

*synonym*: surpass, excel, overshadow

(1) **outclass** by technology, (2) **outclass** her peers

The new sports car **outclasses** all its competitors regarding speed and performance.

## gunpowder

*n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive

*synonym*: ammunition, explosive, bullet

(1) **gunpowder** paper, (2) smokeless **gunpowder**

The invention of **gunpowder** revolutionized warfare.

## weaponry

*n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country

*synonym* : arms, munition, artillery

(1) **weaponry** development, (2) advanced **weaponry**

The army used various **weaponry** to defend the country from attack.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. inc\_\_\_\_\_ive evidence *adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision
2. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
3. h\_\_l forecast *v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
4. fierce ri\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
5. co\_\_\_\_\_ce in battle *n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty
6. re\_\_\_t against existing ways of thinking *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
7. we\_\_\_\_\_ry development *n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
8. launch a cou\_\_\_\_\_ack *n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it

ANSWERS: 1. inconclusive, 2. opportune, 3. hail, 4. rivalry, 5. cowardice, 6. revolt, 7. weaponry, 8. counterattack

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 9. temporary tr__e             | <i>n.</i> a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement                  |
| 10. re__t against the dictator | <i>n.</i> to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler  |
| 11. a me_____ry enterprise     | <i>n.</i> a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment   |
| 12. industrial ren_____ce      | <i>n.</i> a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music  |
| 13. me_____ry killers          | <i>n.</i> a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment   |
| 14. artistic ren_____ce        | <i>n.</i> a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music  |
| 15. walk on a le__h            | <i>n.</i> a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions |
| 16. make a co_____st           | <i>n.</i> the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation   |
| 17. advanced we_____ry         | <i>n.</i> a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country                     |

ANSWERS: 9. truce, 10. revolt, 11. mercenary, 12. Renaissance, 13. mercenary, 14. Renaissance, 15. leash, 16. conquest, 17. weaponry



18. fa\_\_\_e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
19. ou\_\_\_\_\_ss her peers *v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance
20. gear up for a cou\_\_\_\_\_ack *n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it
21. pl\_\_\_\_\_r his reputation *v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
22. dy\_\_\_\_\_y of China *n.* a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
23. gu\_\_\_\_\_er paper *n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive
24. animal ma\_\_\_\_\_re *n.* the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals
25. syn\_\_\_\_\_us terms *adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
26. dog le\_\_h *n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
27. pl\_\_\_\_\_r the enemy's stronghold *v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

ANSWERS: 18. famine, 19. outclass, 20. counterattack, 21. plunder, 22. dynasty, 23. gunpowder, 24. massacre, 25. synonymous, 26. leash, 27. plunder

28. smokeless gu\_\_\_\_\_er                    *n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive
29. politics of co\_\_\_\_\_ce                    *n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty
30. wilderness ba\_\_\_\_t                    *n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others
31. inc\_\_\_\_\_ive debate                    *adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision
32. ca\_\_\_\_\_ic in his tastes                    *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
33. pr\_\_\_\_\_ge company                    *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
34. imperial co\_\_\_\_\_st                    *n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
35. ru\_\_\_\_\_ss brutality                    *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
36. ri\_\_\_\_\_y among airlines                    *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

ANSWERS: 28. gunpowder, 29. cowardice, 30. bandit, 31. inconclusive, 32. Catholic, 33. prestige, 34. conquest, 35. ruthless, 36. rivalry

37. break a tr\_\_e *n.* a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement
38. during the Ming dy\_\_\_\_y *n.* a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
39. h\_\_l the victorious team with cheers *v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
40. non-syn\_\_\_\_us mutation *adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
41. op\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
42. the Ca\_\_\_\_ic Church *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
43. pi\_\_\_\_e gold and other treasures *n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way
44. show ru\_\_\_\_ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

ANSWERS: 37. truce, 38. dynasty, 39. hail, 40. synonymous, 41. opportune, 42. Catholic, 43. pillage, 44. ruthless

45. coal fa\_\_\_e *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
46. ou\_\_\_\_\_ss by technology *v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance
47. national pr\_\_\_\_\_ge *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
48. notorious ba\_\_\_\_t *n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others
49. ma\_\_\_\_\_re in the village *n.* the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals
50. violent pi\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way

ANSWERS: 45. famine, 46. outclass, 47. prestige, 48. bandit, 49. massacre, 50. pillage

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The university has great \_\_\_\_\_ in the academic community.  
*n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
2. The company launched a \_\_\_\_\_ against its rivals with a new marketing campaign.  
*n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it
3. The pirates could \_\_\_\_\_ the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.  
*v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
4. The army used various \_\_\_\_\_ to defend the country from attack.  
*n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
5. He continued to grow his empire through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
6. Folk music is now experiencing a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two teams was intense and heated.  
*n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

ANSWERS: 1. prestige, 2. counterattack, 3. plunder, 4. weaponry, 5. conquest, 6. renaissance, 7. rivalry

8. The two sides agreed to a \_\_\_\_\_ and set down their weapons.  
*n.* a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement
9. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
10. The army's village \_\_\_\_\_ left the residents without food or shelter.  
*n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ of innocent civilians in the war zone was a tragic event.  
*n.* the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals
12. The people tried to \_\_\_\_\_ to oust the tyrant.  
*n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
13. Sociologists are now interested in \_\_\_\_\_ world peace.  
*adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
14. A group of armed \_\_\_\_\_ attacked the villagers during the night.  
*n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others
15. It would be best if you did your work without any \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.  
*n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment

ANSWERS: 8. truce, 9. opportune, 10. pillage, 11. massacre, 12. revolt, 13. catholic, 14. bandits, 15. mercenary

16. Climate behavior models are frequently \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision

17. People who show \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of danger are not always weak but may lack experience.

*n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty

18. The invention of \_\_\_\_\_ revolutionized warfare.

*n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive

19. During the Habsburg \_\_\_\_\_ colonization began.

*n.* a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

20. The severe \_\_\_\_\_ caused by the drought has left many people without food.

*n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

21. The dictator was known for his \_\_\_\_\_ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

22. Make sure to put the \_\_\_\_\_ on your dog before walking.

*n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

23. People in the area were forced to \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.

*v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

ANSWERS: 16. inconclusive, 17. cowardice, 18. gunpowder, 19. dynasty, 20. famine, 21. ruthless, 22. leash, 23. hail

24. The new sports car \_\_\_\_\_ all its competitors regarding speed and performance.

*v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance

25. The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase

ANSWERS: 24. outclasses, 25. synonymous