

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Dennis Shasha: Can you solve the control room riddle? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dennis\\_shasha\\_can\\_you\\_solve\\_the\\_control\\_room\\_riddle](https://www.ted.com/talks/dennis_shasha_can_you_solve_the_control_room_riddle)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### infiltrate

*v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly

*synonym* : penetrate, sneak in, invade

(1) **infiltrate** the bloodstream, (2) **infiltrate** a community

The spy was able to **infiltrate** the enemy's headquarters undetected.

### headquarter

*n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

*synonym* : base, center, command

(1) administrative **headquarter**, (2) an emergency

#### **headquarter**

The company decided to move its **headquarters** to New York City.

### hallway

*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

*synonym* : foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

## riddle

*n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

*synonym* : mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

## visualize

*v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

*synonym* : imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

## doorway

*n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

*synonym* : entrance, portal, gateway

(1) a wide **doorway**, (2) **doorway** to success

He leaned against the **doorway**, waiting for her to come home.

## incidentally

*adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing

*synonym* : by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

**Incidentally**, I know the answer to that question.

## 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.

## conspicuous

*adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention

*synonym* : apparent, noticeable, evident

(1) a **conspicuous** achievement, (2) **conspicuous** consumption

Her golden hair was **conspicuous** in China.

**cryptic**

*adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message;  
mysterious or puzzling in nature

*synonym*: enigmatic, mysterious, obscure

(1) **cryptic** language, (2) **cryptic** crossword

The message was so **cryptic** that I had no idea what it meant.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. inc\_\_\_\_\_lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
2. solve the ri\_\_\_e *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
3. do\_\_\_\_y to success *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
4. a wide do\_\_\_\_y *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
5. ri\_\_\_e me a riddle *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
6. cr\_\_\_\_c language *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
7. n\_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
8. administrative hea\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
9. wax a ha\_\_\_\_y floor *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
10. a con\_\_\_\_\_us achievement *adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention
11. vi\_\_\_\_\_ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

ANSWERS: 1. incidentally, 2. riddle, 3. doorway, 4. doorway, 5. riddle, 6. cryptic, 7. nod, 8. headquarter, 9. hallway, 10. conspicuous, 11. visualize

12. vi\_\_\_\_\_ze flying through space      v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
13. cr\_\_\_\_\_c crossword      *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
14. an emergency hea\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
15. inf\_\_\_\_\_te a community      v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
16. inf\_\_\_\_\_te the bloodstream      v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
17. con\_\_\_\_\_us consumption      *adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention
18. inc\_\_\_\_\_lly mentioned      *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
19. the head of a ha\_\_\_\_\_y      *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
20. n\_d courteously      v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

ANSWERS: 12. visualize, 13. cryptic, 14. headquarter, 15. infiltrate, 16. infiltrate, 17. conspicuous, 18. incidentally, 19. hallway, 20. nod

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the layout of the new house in her mind.  
*v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ remains mysterious to us.  
*n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
3. He leaned against the \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for her to come home.  
*n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
4. The spy was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy's headquarters undetected.  
*v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
5. He dashed down a \_\_\_\_\_ to a bathroom.  
*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
6. Her golden hair was \_\_\_\_\_ in China.  
*adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention
7. \_\_\_\_\_ I know the answer to that question.  
*adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
8. The message was so \_\_\_\_\_ that I had no idea what it meant.  
*adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

ANSWERS: 1. visualize, 2. riddle, 3. doorway, 4. infiltrate, 5. hallway, 6. conspicuous, 7. Incidentally, 8. cryptic

9. The company decided to move its \_\_\_\_\_ to New York City.
- n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
10. 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

ANSWERS: 9. headquarters, 10. nodded