

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: Why elephants never forget | TED Talk  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_gendler\\_why\\_elephants\\_never\\_forget](https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_why_elephants_never_forget)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### benevolent

*adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose

*synonym* : kindly, compassionate, philanthropic

(1) **benevolent** gesture, (2) a **benevolent** individual

The **benevolent** donor's contribution to the charity greatly impacted the lives of those it served.

### proverb

*n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience

*synonym* : adage, saying, maxim

(1) a hackneyed **proverb**, (2) ancient **proverb**

The famous **proverb** "actions speak louder than words" reminds us to focus on deeds instead of words.

### rejoice

*v.* to feel or express great joy or happiness; to celebrate or express gratitude for a happy or positive situation or event

*synonym* : enjoy, delight, celebrate

(1) **rejoice** over a victory, (2) **rejoice** at the moment

We should all **rejoice** in the good things life has to offer.

### boast

*v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

*synonym* : show off, brag, bluster

(1) **boast** of his success, (2) **boast** a long history

This town **boasts** a national park.

## encephalon

*n.* the entire mass of the brain, including the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem; the principal part of the central nervous system, responsible for processing and coordinating sensory information, motor responses, and higher cognitive functions

*synonym* : brain, cerebrum, grey matter

(1) injury to the **encephalon**, (2) functions of the **encephalon**

Damage to the **encephalon** can result in severe cognitive impairment.

## quotient

*n.* a degree or measure of a specific quality or characteristic; the result of dividing one number by another

*synonym* : dividend, ratio, proportion

(1) **quotient** rule, (2) creativity **quotient**

My intelligence **quotient** is below average, according to the test results.

## chimpanzee

*n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

*synonym* : ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

## convergent

*adj.* tending to come together or meet at a point; merging or intersecting; characterized by similarities or commonalities, particularly in different fields or areas of knowledge

*synonym* : merging, meeting

(1) **convergent** beam, (2) **convergent** thinking

The similarities between the two cultures suggest

**convergent** evolution.

## neuron

*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

*synonym*: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

## synapse

*n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it

(1) **synapse** circuit, (2) end at a **synapse**

Animals transmit nerve impulses through **synapses**.

## hippocampus

*n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory

(1) involvement of the **hippocampus**, (2) neurons in the **hippocampus**

The **hippocampus** is crucial for learning and memory storage.

## recollection

*n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered

*synonym*: memory, reminiscence, remembrance

(1) a vague **recollection**, (2) **recollection** of a traumatic event

The older man's **recollections** of his youth were filled with stories of adventure and romance.

## adaptable

*adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

*synonym*: flexible, adjustable, elastic

(1) **adaptable** enough for the environment, (2) an **adaptable** person

We seek a candidate who possesses **adaptable** fighting

potential.

## **rote**

*n.* repetition of something to the point of memorization, especially of facts, without fully understanding it

*synonym*: repetition, memorization, drill

(1) **rote** memorization, (2) learn by **rote**

The students were taught math facts through **rote** repetition but struggled to apply them to new problems.

## **memorize**

*v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

*synonym*: learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

## **matriarch**

*n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

*synonym*: leader, head, founder

(1) ruled by a **matriarch**, (2) **matriarch** figure

The **matriarch** of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.

## **outwit**

*v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else

*synonym*: outsmart, outmaneuver, outfox

(1) **outwit** a problem, (2) **outwit** his competitors

He could **outwit** his opponents with his quick thinking and clever strategy.

## **infrasonic**

*adj.* relating to sound waves below the range of human hearing, typically below 20 Hz

*synonym*: inaudible, subsonic

(1) **infrasonic** sensor, (2) **infrasonic** electronic waves

**Infrasonic** waves can be used for communication, such as in long-range submarines.

## rumble

v. to make a low, heavy continuous sound

*synonym*: roar, growl, grumble

(1) **rumble** an order, (2) **rumble** down the dirt track

The thunder **rumbled** in the distance.

## recreate

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

*synonym*: renovate, vivify, revive

(1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s

She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

## empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

*synonym*: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

**Empathy** is also necessary to understand history.

## altruism

n. the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity

*synonym*: selflessness, philanthropy, generosity

(1) acts of **altruism**, (2) **altruism** in society

His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical **altruism**.

## mourn

v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

*synonym*: grieve, lament, weep

(1) **mourn** with deep grief, (2) **mourn** death

We **mourned** the loss of our dear friend at the memorial

service.

## poach

*v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings

*synonym* : steal, snatch

(1) **poach** on his land, (2) **poach** deer

The chef **poached** the eggs perfectly for the benedict breakfast dish.

## ivory

*n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

*synonym* : elephant tusk, bone, tooth

(1) tower of **ivory**, (2) **ivory** carving

The intricate carvings on the **ivory** tusk were a work of art.

## captivity

*n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

*synonym* : confinement, detention, imprisonment

(1) escape from **captivity**, (2) animals in **captivity** in the zoo

Pandas rarely breed in **captivity**.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. con\_\_\_\_\_nt thinking *adj.* tending to come together or meet at a point; merging or intersecting; characterized by similarities or commonalities, particularly in different fields or areas of knowledge
2. a vague rec\_\_\_\_\_ion *n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
3. a ben\_\_\_\_\_nt individual *adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
4. chi\_\_\_\_\_ee behavior *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
5. animals in ca\_\_\_\_\_ty in the zoo *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
6. escape from ca\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
7. end at a sy\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
8. me\_\_\_\_\_ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
9. chi\_\_\_\_\_ee society *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

ANSWERS: 1. convergent, 2. recollection, 3. benevolent, 4. chimpanzee, 5. captivity, 6. captivity, 7. synapse, 8. memorize, 9. chimpanzee

10. inf\_\_\_\_\_ic sensor *adj.* relating to sound waves below the range of human hearing, typically below 20 Hz
11. po\_\_h on his land *v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings
12. ben\_\_\_\_\_nt gesture *adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
13. injury to the enc\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the entire mass of the brain, including the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem; the principal part of the central nervous system, responsible for processing and coordinating sensory information, motor responses, and higher cognitive functions
14. re\_\_\_\_\_te the feeling of the 1920s *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
15. learn by r\_\_e *n.* repetition of something to the point of memorization, especially of facts, without fully understanding it
16. acts of al\_\_\_\_\_sm *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
17. qu\_\_\_\_\_nt rule *n.* a degree or measure of a specific quality or characteristic; the result of dividing one number by another

ANSWERS: 10. infrasonic, 11. poach, 12. benevolent, 13. encephalon, 14. recreate, 15. rote, 16. altruism, 17. quotient



18. re\_\_\_\_\_te a single country      *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
19. re\_\_\_\_\_e at the moment      *v.* to feel or express great joy or happiness; to celebrate or express gratitude for a happy or positive situation or event
20. con\_\_\_\_\_nt beam      *adj.* tending to come together or meet at a point; merging or intersecting; characterized by similarities or commonalities, particularly in different fields or areas of knowledge
21. functions of the enc\_\_\_\_\_on      *n.* the entire mass of the brain, including the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem; the principal part of the central nervous system, responsible for processing and coordinating sensory information, motor responses, and higher cognitive functions
22. involvement of the hip\_\_\_\_\_us      *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
23. re\_\_\_\_\_e over a victory      *v.* to feel or express great joy or happiness; to celebrate or express gratitude for a happy or positive situation or event
24. ma\_\_\_\_\_ch figure      *n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

ANSWERS: 18. recreate, 19. rejoice, 20. convergent, 21. encephalon, 22. hippocampus, 23. rejoice, 24. matriarch

25. al\_\_\_\_sm in society *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
26. neurons in the hip\_\_\_\_us *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
27. ancient pr\_\_\_\_b *n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
28. rec\_\_\_\_ion of a traumatic event *n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
29. excite the ne\_\_\_\_ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
30. a hackneyed pr\_\_\_\_b *n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
31. an ad\_\_\_\_le person *adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
32. r\_\_e memorization *n.* repetition of something to the point of memorization, especially of facts, without fully understanding it
33. ruled by a ma\_\_\_\_ch *n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

ANSWERS: 25. altruism, 26. hippocampus, 27. proverb, 28. recollection, 29. neuron, 30. proverb, 31. adaptable, 32. rote, 33. matriarch

34. creativity qu\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a degree or measure of a specific quality or characteristic; the result of dividing one number by another
35. inf\_\_\_\_\_ic electronic waves *adj.* relating to sound waves below the range of human hearing, typically below 20 Hz
36. ou\_\_\_t a problem *v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
37. try hard to me\_\_\_\_\_ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
38. ru\_\_\_e down the dirt track *v.* to make a low, heavy continuous sound
39. ad\_\_\_\_\_le enough for the environment *adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
40. ru\_\_\_e an order *v.* to make a low, heavy continuous sound
41. ou\_\_\_t his competitors *v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
42. em\_\_\_\_\_y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
43. full of em\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
44. bo\_\_t a long history *v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

ANSWERS: 34. quotient, 35. infrasonic, 36. outwit, 37. memorize, 38. rumble, 39. adaptable, 40. rumble, 41. outwit, 42. empathy, 43. empathy, 44. boast

45. tower of iv\_\_y *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
46. ne\_\_\_n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
47. iv\_\_y carving *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
48. mo\_\_n death *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
49. sy\_\_\_\_\_e circuit *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
50. po\_\_h deer *v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings
51. mo\_\_n with deep grief *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
52. bo\_\_t of his success *v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

ANSWERS: 45. ivory, 46. neuron, 47. ivory, 48. mourn, 49. synapse, 50. poach, 51. mourn, 52. boast

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The famous \_\_\_\_\_ "actions speak louder than words" reminds us to focus on deeds instead of words.
  - n.* a short saying that expresses a truth or gives advice based on practical experience
  
2. The similarities between the two cultures suggest \_\_\_\_\_ evolution.
  - adj.* tending to come together or meet at a point; merging or intersecting; characterized by similarities or commonalities, particularly in different fields or areas of knowledge
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is also necessary to understand history.
  - n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
  
4. His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
  
5. He could \_\_\_\_\_ his opponents with his quick thinking and clever strategy.
  - v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
  
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
  - v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
  
7. Pandas rarely breed in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

ANSWERS: 1. proverb, 2. convergent, 3. Empathy, 4. altruism, 5. outwit, 6. recreated, 7. captivity

8. Animals transmit nerve impulses through \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
9. We seek a candidate who possesses \_\_\_\_\_ fighting potential.
- adj.* able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
10. \_\_\_\_\_ waves can be used for communication, such as in long-range submarines.
- adj.* relating to sound waves below the range of human hearing, typically below 20 Hz
11. My intelligence \_\_\_\_\_ is below average, according to the test results.
- n.* a degree or measure of a specific quality or characteristic; the result of dividing one number by another
12. The thunder \_\_\_\_\_ in the distance.
- v.* to make a low, heavy continuous sound
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ donor's contribution to the charity greatly impacted the lives of those it served.
- adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.
- n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
15. The chef \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs perfectly for the benedict breakfast dish.
- v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings

ANSWERS: 8. synapses, 9. adaptable, 10. Infrasonic, 11. quotient, 12. rumbled, 13. benevolent, 14. matriarch, 15. poached

16. Damage to the \_\_\_\_\_ can result in severe cognitive impairment.
- n.* the entire mass of the brain, including the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem; the principal part of the central nervous system, responsible for processing and coordinating sensory information, motor responses, and higher cognitive functions
17. The older man's \_\_\_\_\_ of his youth were filled with stories of adventure and romance.
- n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial for learning and memory storage.
- n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
19. Our body transfers information along each \_\_\_\_\_ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
20. This town \_\_\_\_\_ a national park.
- v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction
21. Lawyers need to \_\_\_\_\_ even the most minor provisions of the law.
- v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
22. We \_\_\_\_\_ the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.
- v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
23. The intricate carvings on the \_\_\_\_\_ tusk were a work of art.
- n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

ANSWERS: 16. encephalon, 17. recollections, 18. hippocampus, 19. neuron, 20. boasts, 21. memorize, 22. mourned, 23. ivory



24. Many zoos have \_\_\_\_\_ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.
- n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
25. We should all \_\_\_\_\_ in the good things life has to offer.
- v.* to feel or express great joy or happiness; to celebrate or express gratitude for a happy or positive situation or event
26. The students were taught math facts through \_\_\_\_\_ repetition but struggled to apply them to new problems.
- n.* repetition of something to the point of memorization, especially of facts, without fully understanding it

ANSWERS: 24. chimpanzee, 25. rejoice, 26. rote