

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Megan Washington: Why I live in mortal dread of public speaking | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/megan\\_washington\\_why\\_i\\_live\\_in\\_mortal\\_dread\\_of\\_public\\_speaking](https://www.ted.com/talks/megan_washington_why_i_live_in_mortal_dread_of_public_speaking)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### inextricable

*adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from  
*synonym* : inescapable, inseparable, entangled

(1) an **inextricable** part of life, (2) form an **inextricable** bond

The knot was **inextricable**, and she had to use scissors to cut it.

### stutter

*v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech

*synonym* : stammer, falter, stumble

(1) **stutter** speech, (2) **stutter** out an apology

He tends to **stutter** when he gets nervous, making it difficult for others to understand him.

### dread

*v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

*synonym* : fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old

We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

## impediment

*n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something

*synonym* : obstacle, hindrance, barrier

(1) have a speech **impediment**, (2) biological **impediment**

The language barrier was an **impediment** to their communication.

## clunky

*adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

*synonym* : clumsy, bulky, burdensome

(1) **clunky** phrasing, (2) **clunky** robot

Refined character portrayal makes up for **clunky** gameplay.

## loophole

*n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties

*synonym* : loophole, escape clause, technicality

(1) legal **loophole**, (2) finding a **loophole**

A **loophole** in the tax code allows some people to avoid paying taxes legally.

## vamp

*n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece

*synonym* : seductress, temptress, enchantress

(1) **vamp** designs, (2) seductive **vamp** neckline

He was trying to repair the **vamp** of his shoe, which had become detached from the sole.

## vibe

*n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood

*synonym* : atmosphere, aura, feeling

(1) party **vibe**, (2) chill **vibe**

The music festival had a great **vibe**, with everyone enjoying the performances and having a good time.

**serene**

*adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries

*synonym* : calm, peaceful, tranquil

(1) **serene** landscape, (2) a **serene** atmosphere

The **serene** sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.

**paramount**

*adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

*synonym* : central, major, crucial

(1) the lord **paramount**, (2) **paramount** to all the others

This country became a country of **paramount** geostrategic importance to us.

**miraculous**

*adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

*synonym* : amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

**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**.

**singe**

*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

*synonym* : sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

**fluent**

*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

*synonym* : eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

## halo

*n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse

*synonym* : aura, nimbus, glory

(1) **halo** effect, (2) **halo** around the moon

The painting of the saint had a golden **halo** surrounding her head, symbolizing her holiness.

## joker

*n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild

*synonym* : trickster, prankster, comedian

(1) **joker** card, (2) **joker** costume

The office clown constantly played the **joker**, making his coworkers laugh with his silly antics.

## sham

*n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

*synonym* : bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                   |      |   |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|
| 1. dr__d getting old              | v.   | to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen  |
| 2. dr__d failure                  | v.   | to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen  |
| 3. a s__m battle                  | n.   | something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not   |
| 4. pa_____nt to all the others    | adj. | more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position  |
| 5. go through a mir_____us change | adj. | very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected   |
| 6. turn out to be all s__m        | n.   | something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not   |
| 7. the lord pa_____nt             | adj. | more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position  |
| 8. seductive v__p neckline        | n.   | the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece |

ANSWERS: 1. dread, 2. dread, 3. sham, 4. paramount, 5. miraculous, 6. sham, 7. paramount, 8. vamp

9. h\_\_o around the moon *n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse
10. st\_\_\_\_r speech *v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech
11. legal lo\_\_\_\_le *n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties
12. biological imp\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
13. party v\_\_e *n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood
14. st\_\_\_\_r out an apology *v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech
15. se\_\_\_\_e landscape *adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
16. h\_\_o effect *n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse

ANSWERS: 9. halo, 10. stutter, 11. loophole, 12. impediment, 13. vibe, 14. stutter, 15. serene, 16. halo

17. sy\_\_\_\_e circuit *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
18. a mir\_\_\_\_\_us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
19. fl\_\_\_t Chinese *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
20. jo\_\_r costume *n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild
21. end at a sy\_\_\_\_e *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
22. finding a lo\_\_\_\_le *n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties
23. v\_\_p designs *n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece
24. cl\_\_\_y phrasing *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

ANSWERS: 17. synapse, 18. miraculous, 19. fluent, 20. joker, 21. synapse, 22. loophole, 23. vamp, 24. clunky

25. si\_\_e off the hair over the flames      *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
26. an ine\_\_\_\_\_ble part of life      *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
27. jo\_\_r card      *n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild
28. have a speech imp\_\_\_\_\_nt      *n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
29. form an ine\_\_\_\_\_ble bond      *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
30. si\_\_e the edges of a fabric      *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
31. cl\_\_\_y robot      *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
32. in a fl\_\_\_t tone      *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
33. a se\_\_\_e atmosphere      *adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
34. chill v\_\_e      *n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood

ANSWERS: 25. singe, 26. inextricable, 27. joker, 28. impediment, 29. inextricable, 30. singe, 31. clunky, 32. fluent, 33. serene, 34. vibe



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The data he prepared was completely \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
2. The knot was \_\_\_\_\_ and she had to use scissors to cut it.  
*adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ sunset over the ocean was a peaceful sight to behold.  
*adj.* calm, peaceful, and untroubled; free from disturbances or worries
4. The language barrier was an \_\_\_\_\_ to their communication.  
*n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
5. He tends to \_\_\_\_\_ when he gets nervous, making it difficult for others to understand him.  
*v.* to speak with sudden involuntary pauses or repetitions of sounds, syllables, or words; (noun) a speech disorder characterized by the repetition or prolongation of sounds, syllables, or words, or by pauses or blocks in speech
6. Animals transmit nerve impulses through \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
7. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ recovery.  
*adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
8. Refined character portrayal makes up for \_\_\_\_\_ gameplay.  
*adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

ANSWERS: 1. sham, 2. inextricable, 3. serene, 4. impediment, 5. stutter, 6. synapses, 7. miraculous, 8. clunky

9. She learned five languages but is only \_\_\_\_\_ in two of them.  
*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
10. The music festival had a great \_\_\_\_\_ with everyone enjoying the performances and having a good time.  
*n.* an atmosphere or feeling that is conveyed through a place, situation, or group of people; characteristic energy or mood
11. This country became a country of \_\_\_\_\_ geostrategic importance to us.  
*adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
12. The office clown constantly played the \_\_\_\_\_ making his coworkers laugh with his silly antics.  
*n.* a person who is given to joking, especially one who is deliberately amusing or attempting to be humorous; in a deck of cards, the card with a picture of a clown or jester on it, usually wild
13. We all \_\_\_\_\_ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.  
*v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
14. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and \_\_\_\_\_ my dress.  
*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
15. The painting of the saint had a golden \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding her head, symbolizing her holiness.  
*n.* a circular band of light around the head of a saint or holy person in the art, often representing a spiritual aura; a circular band of light around the sun or moon, especially during an eclipse

ANSWERS: 9. fluent, 10. vibe, 11. paramount, 12. joker, 13. dread, 14. singed, 15. halo

16. He was trying to repair the \_\_\_\_\_ of his shoe, which had become detached from the sole.
- n.* the upper part of a shoe or boot above the sole, covering the instep and sometimes extending over the toes; a woman who uses her charm or allure to seduce and manipulate men; (of music) an improvised or repeated section of music, usually a jazz or blues piece
17. A \_\_\_\_\_ in the tax code allows some people to avoid paying taxes legally.
- n.* a gap or weakness in a legal or bureaucratic system that allows for the exploitation of unintended benefits or avoids penalties

ANSWERS: 16. vamp, 17. loophole