# **Englist.me**

### Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Steve Ramirez and Xu Liu: A mouse. A laser beam. A manipulated memory. | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/steve\_ramirez\_and\_xu\_liu\_a\_mouse\_a\_laser\_beam\_a\_manipulated\_memory



### **Advanced Words Only**

#### **IMPORTANT**

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### **Session 1: Word List**

#### breakup

the end of a relationship between persons or nations;
 the separation of something into several pieces or sections

synonym: breakdown, divorce, separation

(1) a breakup hug, (2) air breakupHe got over the big breakup with his wife.

#### visceral

 adj. relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

synonym: instinctive, intuitive, gut

(1) visceral organ, (2) visceral fear

After watching the horror movie, she had a **visceral** reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

#### neuroscience

- the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
- (1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

#### undertone

 a low or muted tone or sound, often suggesting an underlying emotion, message, or meaning that is not explicitly stated; a subtle or subdued quality or aspect

synonym: tinge, implication, hint

(1) political **undertone**, (2) a clear **undertone** of tension The speech had a subtle **undertone** of criticism that didn't go unnoticed by the audience.

#### mediate

 to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict

synonym: arbitrate, reconcile, intervene

(1) **mediate** allergic reaction, (2) **mediate** a negotiation The teacher had to **mediate** a disagreement between two students over a stolen pencil.

#### nauseate

ν. to cause feelings of nausea or sickness; to feel sick or queasy; to cause repugnance or disgust

synonym: queasy, sicken, disgust

(1) nauseate my stomach, (2) make me nauseate
The roller coaster ride was so intense that it nauseated some passengers.

### **lofty**

adj. elevated in position, rank, or status; grand; elevated in style or language

synonym: high, elevated, grand

(1) a **lofty** peak, (2) **lofty** ambitions

His lofty goals were admirable but unrealistic.

#### spotless

adj. perfectly clean and free of any blemish, defect, or dirt; impeccably neat and tidy

synonym: immaculate, pristine, pure

(1) **spotless** room, (2) **spotless** reputation

The car dealership advertised **spotless** cars that looked brand new.

### haystack

 a large mound of hay, usually stacked in a conical or cylindrical shape, used for animal feed or bedding synonym: pile, heap, stack

(1) haystack fire, (2) lost in a haystack

The children played hide and seek in the **haystacks** in the barnyard.

### daunting

 adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something

synonym: intimidating, stunning, disheartening

(1) face the **daunting** reality, (2) seem like a **daunting** task My homework was **daunting** and complex, but it was also intriguing.

### hippocampus

- 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.

### footprint

- n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surfacesynonym: footmark, imprint, impression
- (1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon footprint.

### inject

 to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

### crystallize

v. to form crystals from a liquid or solution; to become clear or definite in form or structure; to solidify

*synonym*: solidify, freeze, shape up

(1) **crystallize** a concept, (2) **crystallize** into reality As the sugar water cools, it will slowly **crystallize** into rock candy.

#### fleeting

adj. brief or temporary, lasting only a short time synonym: temporary, brief, transitory

(1) for a **fleeting** moment, (2) **fleeting** opportunity She savored the **fleeting** happiness she felt during the vacation.

#### inactivate

v. to make something idle or inoperative; to release from military service or remove from the active list of military service

synonym: assuage, appease, demobilize

- (1) **inactivate** growth factor, (2) **inactivate** the vaccine The system for purifying the air uses UV light to **inactivate** microorganisms.
- v. to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

synonym: destroy, kill, exterminate

(1) **zap** a huge target, (2) **zap** bar code

They provided allies with powerful weapons that could **zap** the enemy from thousands of miles away.

#### electrify

 to make a machine or system work by using electricity;
 to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

### optogenetics

- n. a branch of biotechnology that involves the use of light to control the activity of genetically modified cells or neurons in living tissue, often used in neuroscience research
- (1) **optogenetics** technique, (2) **optogenetics** manipulation The recent advances in **optogenetics** research have paved the way for a deeper understanding of neuronal functions.

### rhodopsin

- a light-sensitive protein found in the retina of the eye, responsible for vision in low-light conditions
- synonym: visual purple, purpuroxanthin, retinene
- (1) visual **rhodopsin**, (2) photosensitive **rhodopsin**Light entering the eye causes a chemical change in the **rhodopsin**, which begins the vision process.

#### undetected

- adj. not perceived or discoveredsynonym: undiscovered, hidden, concealed
- (1) **undetected** cancer, (2) leave the house **undetected**Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained **undetected**.

### terrifying

- adj. very frightening or intimidatingsynonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming
- (1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

### pretension

- n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
- *synonym*: presumption, pretense, affectation
- (1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

### incapacitate

to disable or render someone or something unable to function or operate normally, either temporarily or permanently, often as a result of injury, illness, or damage

synonym: disable, paralyze, immobilize

(1) **incapacitate** opponent, (2) **incapacitate** the enemy The injury sustained during the game could **incapacitate** the player for the rest of the season.

#### headlight

 a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead

synonym: headlamp, beam, lamp

(1) **headlight** adjustment, (2) **headlight** switch

My car's **headlight** must be replaced before I drive again at night.

#### ocular

adj. relating to the eyes or vision; visual; pertaining to or connected with the sense of sight

synonym: visual, optical, ophthalmic

(1) **ocular** examination, (2) **ocular** symptoms

After using the new **ocular** lens, the photographer took extremely sharp and detailed pictures.

sniff

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

synonym: smell, inhale, scent

(1) **sniff** the air, (2) **sniff** the perfume
The dog stopped to **sniff** around the tree, looking for something interesting.

#### excite

- v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate
- (1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion The news of her promotion **excited** her.

### optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

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(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism** There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

#### freeman

a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote

synonym: citizen, individual, person

(1) freeman rights, (2) freeman status

In the colonial period, only **freeman** was allowed to vote.

#### evocative

adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind synonym: suggestive, stimulating, provocative

(1) evocative memories, (2) evocative language The music was **evocative** of a bygone era.

#### accolade

an expression of praise, honor, or approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement

synonym: tribute, honor, award

(1) accolade ceremony, (2) professional accolade The actor received an **accolade** for his outstanding performance in the play.

#### ramification

the act or process of branching out or dividing into branches

*synonym*: fork, branching, complication

- (1) ramifications of the scenario, (2) political ramification The court's decision had many unforeseen ramifications.
- to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

synonym: fiddle, play, fix

(1) **tinker** with the bill, (2) **tinker** with the settings He spent the afternoon **tinkering** with his car engine.

#### tinker

#### remix

v. to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item

synonym: recreate, recompose, alter

(1) **remix** a couple of tracks, (2) **remix** the album He **remixed** the tracks to give them a jazz feel.

#### pluck

 to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym: grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

### pleasurable

adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyablesynonym: comforting, enjoyable, gratifying

(1) a **pleasurable** experience, (2) have a very **pleasurable** time

Our marital life was full of happiness and **pleasurable** excitement.

#### rumor

 a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym: gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false rumor, (2) rumor mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

## **Session 2: Spelling**

1.	heht adjustment	n.	a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead
2.	elfy the audience	ν.	to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
3.	incate opponent	<i>v</i> .	to disable or render someone or something unable to function or operate normally, either temporarily or permanently, often as a result of injury, illness, or damage
4.	frn rights	n.	a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote
5.	political unne	n.	a low or muted tone or sound, often suggesting an underlying emotion, message, or meaning that is not explicitly stated; a subtle or subdued quality or aspect
6.	make me nate	v.	to cause feelings of nausea or sickness; to feel sick or queasy; to cause repugnance or disgust
7.	visual rhin	n.	a light-sensitive protein found in the retina of the eye, responsible for vision in low-light conditions
8.	rex the album	<i>v</i> .	to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its

ANSWERS: 1. headlight, 2. electrify, 3. incapacitate, 4. freeman, 5. undertone, 6. nauseate, 7. rhodopsin, 8. remix

original state by adding, removing, or

changing elements of the item

11. fl\_\_\_ng opportunity adj. brief or temporary, lasting only a short time

12. ac\_\_\_\_de ceremony an expression of praise, honor, or n. approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement

the scientific study of the function, 13. the branch of neu nce n. structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

> to compose a piece of media that has ν. been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item

to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill ν. something or someone suddenly and with force

to cause feelings of nausea or sickness; to feel sick or queasy; to cause repugnance or disgust

a piece of unverified information of n. uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

adj. not perceived or discovered

14. re x a couple of tracks

15. z p bar code

16. na te my stomach

17. ru r mill

18. leave the house und ed

ANSWERS: 9. undetected, 10. pretension, 11. fleeting, 12. accolade, 13. neuroscience, 14. remix, 15. zap, 16. nauseate, 17. rumor, 18. undetected

ANSWERS: 19. zap, 20. optogenetics, 21. sniff, 22. inject, 23. breakup, 24. visceral, 25. excite, 26. freeman

ANSWERS: 27. spotless, 28. ocular, 29. daunting, 30. optimism, 31. headlight, 32. hippocampus, 33. footprint, 34. electrify, 35. mediate

ANSWERS: 36. footprint, 37. inactivate, 38. ramification, 39. crystallize, 40. lofty, 41. inject, 42. sniff, 43. undertone, 44. terrifying, 45. tinker

improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

55. ev\_\_\_\_ve language

adj. tending to evoke or bring something to

adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind

 the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

ANSWERS: 46. mediate, 47. optimism, 48. pleasurable, 49. evocative, 50. excite, 51. fleeting, 52. accolade, 53. haystack, 54. tinker, 55. evocative, 56. neuroscience

56. a theoretical concept in

neu\_\_\_\_nce

 a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

 to form crystals from a liquid or solution; to become clear or definite in form or structure; to solidify

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

ANSWERS: 65. pluck, 66. pleasurable, 67. spotless, 68. breakup, 69. lofty, 70. terrifying, 71. haystack, 72. ocular, 73. rumor, 74. crystallize, 75. hippocampus

73. a false ru\_\_r

74. cry\_\_\_\_ze into reality

75. neurons in the hip us

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76. baseless pre\_\_\_\_on

 n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 76. pretension

### **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	As the sugar water cools, it will slowly into rock candy.
ν.	to form crystals from a liquid or solution; to become clear or definite in form or structure; to solidify
2.	He the tracks to give them a jazz feel.
<i>v</i> .	to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item
3.	The speech had a subtle of criticism that didn't go unnoticed by the audience.
n.	a low or muted tone or sound, often suggesting an underlying emotion, message, or meaning that is not explicitly stated; a subtle or subdued quality or aspect
4.	The news of her promotion her.
<i>v</i> .	to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
5.	She savored the happiness she felt during the vacation.
adj	brief or temporary, lasting only a short time
6.	Our marital life was full of happiness and excitement.
adj	giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable
7.	The injury sustained during the game could the player for the rest of the season.
ν.	to disable or render someone or something unable to function or operate normally, either temporarily or permanently, often as a result of injury, illness, or damage
	SWERS: 1. crystallize, 2. remixed, 3. undertone, 4. excited, 5. fleeting, 6. asurable, 7. incapacitate

32. He spent the afternoon with his car engine.				
v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way				
33. The music was of a bygone era.				
adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind				
34. She the flowers off the bush.				
v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers				
35. The product developed through years of research continues to the market.				
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something				
36. The dog stopped to around the tree, looking for something interesting.				
v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath				
37. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral				
<ul> <li>the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system</li> </ul>				
38. Large earthquakes often generate tsunamis.				
adj. very frightening or intimidating				
ANSWERS: 32. tinkering, 33. evocative, 34. plucked, 35. electrify, 36. sniff, 37. neuroscience, 38. terrifying				