

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Marc Abrahams: A science award that makes you laugh, then think | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/marc\\_abrahams\\_a\\_scienc\\_e\\_award\\_that\\_makes\\_you\\_laugh\\_then\\_think](https://www.ted.com/talks/marc_abrahams_a_scienc_e_award_that_makes_you_laugh_then_think)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

## Session 1: Word List

- rot** v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually  
*synonym*: perish, decay, corrode  
(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age  
Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.
- centrifugal** *adj.* tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or diverging from a common point or central idea  
*synonym*: outward, diverging, radiating  
(1) **centrifugal** acceleration, (2) **centrifugal** casting  
The **centrifugal** force of the spinning ride caused my hair to fly in all directions.
- woodpecker** *n.* a type of bird characterized by its habit of tapping or drumming against tree trunks with its strong beak, known for its ability to excavate holes in tree trunks and branches for nesting and foraging purposes  
*synonym*: pecker, timberdoodle  
(1) **woodpecker** nest, (2) **woodpecker** feeding  
I spotted a **woodpecker** drilling for insects in the trunk of an old oak tree.

## peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

*synonym* : beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

## slosh

v. to move the liquid around, usually inside a container, with a splashing or slapping sound; to move clumsily through water or mud

*synonym* : splash, swish, slop

(1) **slosh** through the mud, (2) **slosh** a drink

The water **sloshed** over the edge of the bucket and spilled onto the floor.

## lancet

n. a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures

*synonym* : scalpel, blade, surgical instrument

(1) **lancet** device, (2) surgical **lancet**

The doctor used a **lancet** for a small incision on the patient's skin.

## prick

v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

*synonym* : poke, jab, sting

(1) **prick** a balloon, (2) **prick** up her ears

He accidentally **pricked** his finger with the needle.

## putrid

adj. decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting

*synonym* : rotten, decaying, decomposing

(1) turn **putrid**, (2) **putrid** atmosphere

I had to throw away the **putrid** food in the fridge because it

had gone bad.

## intolerable

*adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable  
*synonym* : agonizing, insufferable, unbearable

(1) **intolerable** situation, (2) the heat is **intolerable**

Chronic pain from the side effects of treatment made her life **intolerable**.

## rattle

*v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds

*synonym* : jolt, shake, babble

(1) **rattle** along a road, (2) **rattle** and bang at the door

The vast earthquake caused the house to **rattle**.

## nominate

*v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

*synonym* : appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

## scrape

*v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

*synonym* : scratch, graze, rub

(1) **scrape** meat off a bone, (2) **scrape** a hole in the ground

He **scraped** the mud off his boots before entering the house.

## denomination

*n.* a religious group or branch, usually including many local churches; a value or size of a banknote, coin, or postage stamp

*synonym* : sect, faith, creed

(1) a religious **denomination**, (2) notes of small **denomination**

He flashed a fistful of large **denomination** bills.

## gill

*n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and

excretes carbon dioxide

*synonym* : respiratory organ, lung

(1) **gill** slits, (2) **gill** apparatus

The fish's **gills** are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.

## laureate

*n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**

The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.

## guinea

*n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic

*synonym* : coin, money, currency

(1) **guinea** coins, (2) **guinea** pig

The cost of the antique vase is three **guineas**.

## highland

*adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain

*synonym* : upland, plateau

(1) **highland** Indian, (2) **highland** agriculture

This region has a humid subtropical and **highland** climate.

## colonoscopy

*n.* a medical procedure in which a flexible tube with a camera on its end is inserted into the rectum to examine the colon for potential abnormalities or diseases

*synonym* : colon examination, bowel scope, colonography

(1) **colonoscopy** screening, (2) virtual **colonoscopy**

He had to undergo a **colonoscopy** as part of his routine medical check-up.

## explode

*v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

*synonym* : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

## inflate

*v.* to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder

*synonym* : blow up, expand, puff up

(1) **inflate** a tire, (2) **inflate** expense reports

She **inflated** the balloons for the party.

## methane

*n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions

The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

## flammable

*adj.* able to burn easily

*synonym* : combustible, ignitable, incendiary

(1) **flammable** atmosphere, (2) non- **flammable** fiber

The warning labels indicated that the product was highly **flammable**.

## bystander

*n.* a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene

*synonym* : spectator, observer, witness

(1) innocent **bystander**, (2) shocked **bystander**

The **bystander** effect is a phenomenon where people are less likely to intervene in an emergency if others are present.

## meltdown

*n.* a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically

*synonym* : collapse, disaster, failure

(1) **meltdown** disaster, (2) economic **meltdown**

The nuclear **meltdown** in the country was a disaster with

far-reaching consequences.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. atmospheric me____e         | <i>n.</i> a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH <sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel   |
| 2. economic me____wn           | <i>n.</i> a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically |
| 3. notes of small den____ion   | <i>n.</i> a religious group or branch, usually including many local churches; a value or size of a banknote, coin, or postage stamp  |
| 4. p__k at feed                | <i>v.</i> to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble  |
| 5. ra___e and bang at the door | <i>v.</i> to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds   |
| 6. col____py screening         | <i>n.</i> a medical procedure in which a flexible tube with a camera on its end is inserted into the rectum to examine the colon for potential abnormalities or diseases                       |
| 7. sc___e meat off a bone      | <i>v.</i> to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter  |
| 8. reduce me____e emissions    | <i>n.</i> a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH <sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel   |

ANSWERS: 1. methane, 2. meltdown, 3. denomination, 4. peck, 5. rattle, 6. colonoscopy, 7. scrape, 8. methane

9. int\_\_\_\_\_le situation *adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable
10. poet la\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
11. no\_\_\_\_\_te him for an award *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
12. la\_\_\_\_t device *n.* a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures
13. cen\_\_\_\_\_al casting *adj.* tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or diverging from a common point or central idea
14. sl\_\_h a drink *v.* to move the liquid around, usually inside a container, with a splashing or slapping sound; to move clumsily through water or mud
15. me\_\_\_\_\_wn disaster *n.* a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically
16. no\_\_\_\_\_te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

ANSWERS: 9. intolerable, 10. laureate, 11. nominate, 12. lancet, 13. centrifugal, 14. slosh, 15. meltdown, 16. nominate







34. pu\_\_\_d atmosphere *adj.* decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting
35. non-fl\_\_\_\_\_le fiber *adj.* able to burn easily
36. ex\_\_\_\_\_e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
37. turn pu\_\_\_d *adj.* decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting
38. innocent by\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene
39. the heat is int\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable
40. woo\_\_\_\_\_er nest *n.* a type of bird characterized by its habit of tapping or drumming against tree trunks with its strong beak, known for its ability to excavate holes in tree trunks and branches for nesting and foraging purposes
41. Oscar la\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
42. surgical la\_\_\_t *n.* a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures

ANSWERS: 34. putrid, 35. flammable, 36. explode, 37. putrid, 38. bystander, 39. intolerable, 40. woodpecker, 41. laureate, 42. lancet

43. a religious den\_\_\_\_\_ion                      *n.* a religious group or branch, usually including many local churches; a value or size of a banknote, coin, or postage stamp
44. ex\_\_\_\_\_e in popularity                      *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
45. hi\_\_\_\_\_nd Indian                      *adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain
46. gu\_\_\_\_a coins                      *n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
47. in\_\_\_\_\_e expense reports                      *v.* to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder
48. in\_\_\_\_\_e a tire                      *v.* to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder

ANSWERS: 43. denomination, 44. explode, 45. highland, 46. guinea, 47. inflate, 48. inflate

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I spotted a \_\_\_\_\_ drilling for insects in the trunk of an old oak tree.  
*n.* a type of bird characterized by its habit of tapping or drumming against tree trunks with its strong beak, known for its ability to excavate holes in tree trunks and branches for nesting and foraging purposes
2. The fish's \_\_\_\_\_ are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.  
*n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
3. He had to undergo a \_\_\_\_\_ as part of his routine medical check-up.  
*n.* a medical procedure in which a flexible tube with a camera on its end is inserted into the rectum to examine the colon for potential abnormalities or diseases
4. The water \_\_\_\_\_ over the edge of the bucket and spilled onto the floor.  
*v.* to move the liquid around, usually inside a container, with a splashing or slapping sound; to move clumsily through water or mud
5. The vast earthquake caused the house to \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds
6. I had to throw away the \_\_\_\_\_ food in the fridge because it had gone bad.  
*adj.* decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting
7. The warning labels indicated that the product was highly \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* able to burn easily

ANSWERS: 1. woodpecker, 2. gills, 3. colonoscopy, 4. sloshed, 5. rattle, 6. putrid, 7. flammable

8. He flashed a fistful of large \_\_\_\_\_ bills.
- n.* a religious group or branch, usually including many local churches; a value or size of a banknote, coin, or postage stamp
9. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_.
- v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
10. He accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ his finger with the needle.
- v.* to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication
11. She \_\_\_\_\_ the balloons for the party.
- v.* to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder
12. The doctor used a \_\_\_\_\_ for a small incision on the patient's skin.
- n.* a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ force of the spinning ride caused my hair to fly in all directions.
- adj.* tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or diverging from a common point or central idea
14. The wood \_\_\_\_\_ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
- v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
15. The nuclear \_\_\_\_\_ in the country was a disaster with far-reaching consequences.
- n.* a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically

ANSWERS: 8. denomination, 9. rot, 10. pricked, 11. inflated, 12. lancet, 13. centrifugal, 14. pecker, 15. meltdown

16. The \_\_\_\_\_ effect is a phenomenon where people are less likely to intervene in an emergency if others are present.
- n.* a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene
17. The Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
- n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
18. The organization \_\_\_\_\_ her to be the next president.
- v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
19. He \_\_\_\_\_ the mud off his boots before entering the house.
- v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
20. The cost of the antique vase is three \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
21. This region has a humid subtropical and \_\_\_\_\_ climate.
- adj.* an area of elevated land or hilly terrain
22. The old building \_\_\_\_\_ in a fiery inferno.
- v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 16. bystander, 17. laureate, 18. nominated, 19. scraped, 20. guineas, 21. highland, 22. exploded

23. The ignition of \_\_\_\_\_ gas in the plant killed five employees.

*n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

24. Chronic pain from the side effects of treatment made her life \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* incapable of being tolerated or endured; unacceptable

ANSWERS: 23. methane, 24. intolerable