

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Apollo Robbins: The art of misdirection | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/apollo\\_robbins\\_the\\_art\\_of\\_misdirection](https://www.ted.com/talks/apollo_robbins_the_art_of_misdirection)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### superpower

*n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

*synonym*: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

### orthodox

*adj.* following or conforming to the traditional, normal, or commonly accepted beliefs, ideas, or activities; of or relating to Judaism; of or relating to the Eastern Orthodox Church

*synonym*: traditional, conventional, established

(1) an **orthodox** doctrine, (2) **orthodox** thought

He challenged the **orthodox** views on business.

### misdirect

*v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

*synonym*: misguide, mislead, botch

(1) **misdirect** my anger, (2) **misdirect** the letter

I believe this analysis is **misdirected** to some extent.

## pickpocket

*n.* a person who steals from the pockets or bags of others, typically in crowded public places, often without their knowledge or detection; someone who engages in the act of pickpocketing

*synonym*: thief, pilferer, robber

(1) **pickpocket** incident, (2) notorious **pickpocket**

Beware of **pickpockets** in crowded tourist areas.

## perceptive

*adj.* having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments

*synonym*: insightful, observant, discerning

(1) **perceptive** comment, (2) **perceptive** reader

Her **perceptive** eye caught on to the subtle details in the artwork that others had missed.

## trinity

*n.* the union of three people, especially the Christian doctrine of the three persons in one Godhead (the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

*synonym*: triad, triune, three-in-one

(1) **trinity** doctrine, (2) the Blessed **Trinity**

The Christian doctrine of the Holy **Trinity** states that there is one God in three persons.

## steer

*v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

*synonym*: guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

## distract

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

*synonym*: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

## rewind

v. to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning

*synonym*: wind back, back up, reverse

(1) **rewind** a film, (2) manually **rewind** the tape

Please **rewind** the thread onto the reel.

## onstage

*adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

## applause

*n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

*synonym*: clapping, cheering, acclaim

(1) round of **applause**, (2) earn **applause**

The **applause** burst from the audience.

## pardon

v. to forgive someone for something they have said or done, such as a crime; (noun) the act of excusing a mistake or offense

*synonym*: forgive, excuse, absolve

(1) **pardon** me, (2) supplicate for **pardon**

The governor decided to **pardon** the prisoner after reviewing the evidence of his innocence.

## poke

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

*synonym*: prod, jab, push

(1) **poke** around the desk, (2) **poke** a fire

They **poked** fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

## distracted

*adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

*synonym*: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a

lamppost.

## squeak

*v.* to make a high-pitched, short, sharp noise; to speak or say something in a high-pitched, weak, or timid voice

*synonym*: squeal, whine, creak

(1) **squeak** out a few words, (2) mice **squeak**

The door **squeaked** when I opened it.

## hesitant

*adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision

*synonym*: indecisive, uncertain, reluctant

(1) **hesitant** response, (2) **hesitant** to take action

She was **hesitant** to speak in public but eventually overcame her fear.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. supplicate for pa\_\_\_n  
*v.* to forgive someone for something they have said or done, such as a crime;  
(noun) the act of excusing a mistake or offense
2. or\_\_\_\_ox thought  
*adj.* following or conforming to the traditional, normal, or commonly accepted beliefs, ideas, or activities; of or relating to Judaism; of or relating to the Eastern Orthodox Church
3. the Blessed Tr\_\_\_\_y  
*n.* the union of three people, especially the Christian doctrine of the three persons in one Godhead (the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)
4. manually re\_\_\_d the tape  
*v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
5. mi\_\_\_\_\_ct the letter  
*v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
6. st\_\_r a steady course  
*v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
7. pa\_\_\_n me  
*v.* to forgive someone for something they have said or done, such as a crime;  
(noun) the act of excusing a mistake or offense
8. walk on\_\_\_\_e  
*adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

ANSWERS: 1. pardon, 2. orthodox, 3. trinity, 4. rewind, 5. misdirect, 6. steer, 7. pardon, 8. onstage

9. p\_\_e around the desk      *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
10. sup\_\_\_\_\_er country      *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
11. round of ap\_\_\_\_\_se      *n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
12. an or\_\_\_\_\_ox doctrine      *adj.* following or conforming to the traditional, normal, or commonly accepted beliefs, ideas, or activities; of or relating to Judaism; of or relating to the Eastern Orthodox Church
13. appeared on\_\_\_\_\_e      *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
14. he\_\_\_\_\_nt to take action      *adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision
15. earn ap\_\_\_\_\_se      *n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
16. sup\_\_\_\_\_er leader      *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
17. mice sq\_\_\_k      *v.* to make a high-pitched, short, sharp noise; to speak or say something in a high-pitched, weak, or timid voice

ANSWERS: 9. poke, 10. superpower, 11. applause, 12. orthodox, 13. onstage, 14. hesitant, 15. applause, 16. superpower, 17. squeak

18. per\_\_\_\_\_ve reader *adj.* having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments
19. notorious pic\_\_\_\_\_et *n.* a person who steals from the pockets or bags of others, typically in crowded public places, often without their knowledge or detection; someone who engages in the act of pickpocketing
20. pic\_\_\_\_\_et incident *n.* a person who steals from the pockets or bags of others, typically in crowded public places, often without their knowledge or detection; someone who engages in the act of pickpocketing
21. p\_\_e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
22. di\_\_\_\_\_ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
23. per\_\_\_\_\_ve comment *adj.* having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments
24. he\_\_\_\_\_nt response *adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision
25. dis\_\_\_\_\_ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
26. st\_\_r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 18. perceptive, 19. pickpocket, 20. pickpocket, 21. poke, 22. distract, 23. perceptive, 24. hesitant, 25. distracted, 26. steer

27. tr\_\_\_\_y doctrine *n.* the union of three people, especially the Christian doctrine of the three persons in one Godhead (the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)
28. get dis\_\_\_\_\_ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
29. re\_\_\_d a film *v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
30. mi\_\_\_\_\_ct my anger *v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
31. sq\_\_\_k out a few words *v.* to make a high-pitched, short, sharp noise; to speak or say something in a high-pitched, weak, or timid voice
32. di\_\_\_\_\_ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 27. trinity, 28. distracted, 29. rewind, 30. misdirect, 31. squeak, 32. distract



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a \_\_\_\_\_ in comic books and movies.
  - n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ burst from the audience.
  - n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
  
3. Beware of \_\_\_\_\_ in crowded tourist areas.
  - n.* a person who steals from the pockets or bags of others, typically in crowded public places, often without their knowledge or detection; someone who engages in the act of pickpocketing
  
4. The governor decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the prisoner after reviewing the evidence of his innocence.
  - v.* to forgive someone for something they have said or done, such as a crime; (noun) the act of excusing a mistake or offense
  
5. He challenged the \_\_\_\_\_ views on business.
  - adj.* following or conforming to the traditional, normal, or commonly accepted beliefs, ideas, or activities; of or relating to Judaism; of or relating to the Eastern Orthodox Church
  
6. I was so \_\_\_\_\_ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
  - adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

ANSWERS: 1. superpower, 2. applause, 3. pickpockets, 4. pardon, 5. orthodox, 6. distracted

7. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.

*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

8. Her \_\_\_\_\_ eye caught on to the subtle details in the artwork that others had missed.

*adj.* having or showing keen insight, sharp observation, or understanding; able to detect subtle nuances or differences in people, situations, or environments

9. They \_\_\_\_\_ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

*v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

10. The door \_\_\_\_\_ when I opened it.

*v.* to make a high-pitched, short, sharp noise; to speak or say something in a high-pitched, weak, or timid voice

11. He performed his magic trick \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the audience in awe.

*adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

12. I believe this analysis is \_\_\_\_\_ to some extent.

*v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

13. The Christian doctrine of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ states that there is one God in three persons.

*n.* the union of three people, especially the Christian doctrine of the three persons in one Godhead (the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

14. The captain told him to \_\_\_\_\_ the ship north.

*v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 7. distract, 8. perceptive, 9. poked, 10. squeaked, 11. onstage, 12. misdirected, 13. Trinity, 14. steer

15. She was \_\_\_\_\_ to speak in public but eventually overcame her fear.

*adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision

16. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the thread onto the reel.

*v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning

ANSWERS: 15. hesitant, 16. rewind