

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

John C. Moore and Eric Berlow: *Dead stuff: The secret ingredient in our food chain* | TED Talk  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_c\\_moore\\_and\\_eric\\_berlow\\_dead\\_stuff\\_the\\_secret\\_ingredient\\_in\\_our\\_food\\_chain](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_c_moore_and_eric_berlow_dead_stuff_the_secret_ingredient_in_our_food_chain)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### scum

*n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups

*synonym* : dregs, slime, filth

(1) bathtub **scum**, (2) **scum** of the earth

The **scum** on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.

### offend

*v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

*synonym* : insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

### fungus

*n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

*synonym* : mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

**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**.

**savannah** n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close  
*synonym* : grassland, plain  
(1) **savannah** region, (2) tropical **savannah**  
The birds live in tropical forests, **savannahs**, and arid semi-desert environments.

**nourish** v. to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy  
*synonym* : feed, sustain, nurture  
(1) **nourish** damaged skin, (2) **nourish** hope  
The mother used her breast milk to **nourish** the baby.

**photosynthesis** n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.  
(1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**  
In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

**digestive** *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food  
(1) **digestive** juices, (2) a **digestive** enzyme  
A nutritious diet improves **digestive** functions.

**detritus** n. waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas

*synonym* : debris, waste, garbage

(1) **detritus** pile, (2) **detritus** removal

The beach was littered with **detritus** and trash left behind by careless visitors.

## expel

v. to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country

*synonym* : deport, oust, dislodge

(1) **expel** him from his native country, (2) **expel** air from the lungs

He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly **expelled** the smoke.

## microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

*synonym* : germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

**Microbes** thrive on the surface of the human skin.

## scavenger

n. an animal or bird that feeds on carrion, dead animals, or other scavenged material; a person who searches for and collects discarded or unwanted items, often to sell or reuse them

*synonym* : vulture, hyena, magpie

(1) **scavenger** bird, (2) marine **scavenger**

Crows are common **scavengers** in urban areas and will eat almost anything.

## mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

*synonym* : fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

## shellfish

*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten

*synonym*: clam, mollusk

(1) **shellfish** allergy, (2) edible **shellfish**

**Shellfish** can cause allergic reactions in certain people.

## catfish

*n.* a type of fish that has whisker-like barbels around its mouth and can often be found in freshwater habitats;  
(verb) to create a fake persona online and use it to deceive others, typically for personal gain or attention

*synonym*: bullhead, mudcat, cobbler

(1) **catfish** farm, (2) **catfish** people on the Internet

My grandfather's favorite way to spend time was fishing for **catfish** in the nearby river.

## by-product

*n.* a secondary product produced during the manufacturing or processing of another product, often not the intended product but still useful or valuable in some way

*synonym*: derivative, spin-off, secondary product

(1) **by-product** of manufacturing, (2) meat **by-products**

The soy sauce was a **by-product** of the fermentation process in making miso paste.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. tropical sa\_\_\_\_ah *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
2. pathogenic mi\_\_\_\_e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
3. mi\_\_\_\_es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
4. de\_\_\_\_us removal *n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas
5. meat by-\_\_\_\_cts *n.* a secondary product produced during the manufacturing or processing of another product, often not the intended product but still useful or valuable in some way
6. ca\_\_\_\_h people on the Internet *n.* a type of fish that has whisker-like barbels around its mouth and can often be found in freshwater habitats; (verb) to create a fake persona online and use it to deceive others, typically for personal gain or attention
7. by-\_\_\_\_ct of manufacturing *n.* a secondary product produced during the manufacturing or processing of another product, often not the intended product but still useful or valuable in some way

ANSWERS: 1. savannah, 2. microbe, 3. microbe, 4. detritus, 5. by-product, 6. catfish, 7. by-product

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|------------------------------|--|
| 8. marine sc_____er          | <i>n.</i> an animal or bird that feeds on carrion, dead animals, or other scavenged material; a person who searches for and collects discarded or unwanted items, often to sell or reuse them                    |
| 9. s__m of the earth         | <i>n.</i> a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups |
| 10. sh_____sh allergy        | <i>n.</i> water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten   |
| 11. r_t with age             | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually   |
| 12. fu___s infection         | <i>n.</i> a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive                              |
| 13. sc_____er bird           | <i>n.</i> an animal or bird that feeds on carrion, dead animals, or other scavenged material; a person who searches for and collects discarded or unwanted items, often to sell or reuse them                    |
| 14. sa_____ah region         | <i>n.</i> a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close  |
| 15. of___d his sensibilities | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed  |

ANSWERS: 8. scavenger, 9. scum, 10. shellfish, 11. rot, 12. fungus, 13. scavenger, 14. savannah, 15. offend

16. process of pho\_\_\_\_\_sis      *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
17. di\_\_\_\_\_ve juices      *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
18. mu\_\_\_\_\_om cultivation      *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
19. edible sh\_\_\_\_\_sh      *n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
20. a di\_\_\_\_\_ve enzyme      *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
21. begin to r\_t      *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
22. de\_\_\_\_\_us pile      *n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas
23. no\_\_\_\_\_h hope      *v.* to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
24. bathtub s\_\_m      *n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups

ANSWERS: 16. photosynthesis, 17. digestive, 18. mushroom, 19. shellfish, 20. digestive, 21. rot, 22. detritus, 23. nourish, 24. scum

25. ca\_\_\_\_h farm *n.* a type of fish that has whisker-like barbels around its mouth and can often be found in freshwater habitats; (verb) to create a fake persona online and use it to deceive others, typically for personal gain or attention
26. no\_\_\_\_h damaged skin *v.* to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
27. oxygenic pho\_\_\_\_\_sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
28. ex\_\_l air from the lungs *v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
29. symbiotic fu\_\_\_\_s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
30. mu\_\_\_\_om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
31. ex\_\_l him from his native country *v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
32. of\_\_\_\_d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

ANSWERS: 25. catfish, 26. nourish, 27. photosynthesis, 28. expel, 29. fungus, 30. mushroom, 31. expel, 32. offend



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Crows are common \_\_\_\_\_ in urban areas and will eat almost anything.  
*n.* an animal or bird that feeds on carrion, dead animals, or other scavenged material; a person who searches for and collects discarded or unwanted items, often to sell or reuse them
2. A nutritious diet improves \_\_\_\_\_ functions.  
*adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
3. \_\_\_\_\_ can cause allergic reactions in certain people.  
*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
4. The mother used her breast milk to \_\_\_\_\_ the baby.  
*v.* to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
5. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
6. The birds live in tropical forests, \_\_\_\_\_ and arid semi-desert environments.  
*n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
7. My grandfather's favorite way to spend time was fishing for \_\_\_\_\_ in the nearby river.  
*n.* a type of fish that has whisker-like barbels around its mouth and can often be found in freshwater habitats; (verb) to create a fake persona online and use it to deceive others, typically for personal gain or attention

ANSWERS: 1. scavengers, 2. digestive, 3. Shellfish, 4. nourish, 5. rot, 6. savannahs, 7. catfish

8. The soy sauce was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the fermentation process in making miso paste.
- n.* a secondary product produced during the manufacturing or processing of another product, often not the intended product but still useful or valuable in some way
9. Certain types of \_\_\_\_\_ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.
- n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
10. \_\_\_\_\_ thrive on the surface of the human skin.
- n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
11. In \_\_\_\_\_ plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.
- n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
12. He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly \_\_\_\_\_ the smoke.
- v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
13. The beach was littered with \_\_\_\_\_ and trash left behind by careless visitors.
- n.* waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized or discarded material or ideas
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.
- n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

ANSWERS: 8. by-product, 9. fungus, 10. Microbes, 11. photosynthesis, 12. expelled, 13. detritus, 14. mushroom

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.
- n.* a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid or a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups
16. His rude comments \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the party.
- v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

ANSWERS: 15. scum, 16. offended