# **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\_b erlow\_dead\_stuff\_the\_secret\_ingredient\_in\_our\_food\_chain



# **All Words**

#### **IMPORTANT**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

#### scum

 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
- offend his sensibilities, (2) offend a customer
   His rude comments offended many people at the party.

# fungus

 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**.

degree

 a unit of measurement for angles, temperature, or level of proficiency or achievement; a rank or level of academic or professional attainment

synonym: level, qualification, diploma

(1) bachelor's **degree**, (2) **degree** centigrade

She received her **degree** in psychology from the university.

separate

- v. to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different synonym: disunite, isolate, ramify
- (1) **separate** video into chapter, (2) **separate** cream from milk

We need to **separate** the aspect of his personality from the part of his competence when making an investment decision.

pond

n. a small, shallow lake

synonym: lake, pool, basin

(1) a garden pond, (2) pond water

The freshwater **pond** was home to many different types of fish and was a popular spot for fishing.

ecosystem

- all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment
- (1) marine **ecosystem**, (2) change the **ecosystem**Human conservation efforts often fail unexpectedly because they disturb the balance of the **ecosystem**.

creature

- n. a living being, especially an animal synonym: being, animal, organism
- (1) creature of habit, (2) artificial creature

The deep sea creature was unlike anything the scientists

had ever seen before.

#### reef

- a long chain or range of rocks or sand near the ocean's surface
- (1) barrier **reef**, (2) coral **reefs**

The vessel ran aground on a reef.

#### savannah

- 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.

## indirectly

adv. not going straight to the point; implying or suggesting something

synonym: circuitously, obliquely, by implication

(1) indirectly related, (2) indirectly impact

The CEO **indirectly** expressed her disappointment with the project's progress.

#### nourish

 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.

# organic

adj. of or derived from biological substance; producing plants and animals for food and other items without the use of synthetic chemicals

synonym: biological

(1) organic soils, (2) eat organic food

The kidney is an **organic** component of the body.

#### trace

- v. to find or discover someone or something that was lost synonym: seek, follow, depict
- (1) **trace** a telephone call, (2) **trace** back to medieval times

Let's **trace** the origins of some familiar foreign words.

# 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 photosynthesisIn photosynthesis, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

# sunlight

- n. the light emitted by the sun; the rays of the sun synonym: daylight, rays, sunshine
- (1) a glare of **sunlight**, (2) in direct **sunlight**Radiation from **sunlight** has a different wavelength.

#### transform

- v. to change in outward structure or looks; synonym: alter, convert, change
- (1) **transform** an education system, (2) **transform** heat into power

My father's death transformed my life completely.

#### carbon

- a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
- (1) **carbon** dioxide, (2) **carbon** emission

  Trees absorb **carbon** dioxide and give off oxygen.

#### oxide

- a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element
- (1) silver oxide, (2) combined oxideThe blood's red coloring comes from iron oxide.

#### environment

 the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live

synonym: atmosphere, surroundings, climate

(1) environment affairs, (2) chaotic environment

Every human is responsible for taking care of the Earth's **environment**.

#### glucose

n. a type of sugar that is found in plants, especially fruit, and is an essential energy source in living things

synonym: sugar, blood sugar

(1) blood **glucose** test, (2) **glucose** level

The doctor injected **glucose** into his patient's veins.

## oxygen

- the chemical element with the symbol O that is present in air and water and is necessary for people, animals, and plants to live
- (1) the hydrogen binds the **oxygen**, (2) lack of **oxygen** The passenger grabbed for the **oxygen** mask.

# complexity

 the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand

synonym: intricacy, sophistication, elaboration

(1) cognitive **complexity**, (2) **complexity** theory The project's **complexity** made it difficult for the team to complete it on time.

#### molecule

 a group of two or more atoms held together by attractive forces known as chemical bonds

synonym: particle, element, atom

(1) small **molecules**, (2) **molecule** behavior

The shape of the DNA **molecule** is a double helix.

#### stem

the central part of something from which other parts can develop or grow; the part of a word common to all its inflected variants; (verb) to grow out of, have roots in, or originate in

synonym: branch, limb, (verb) come from

(1) **stem** from a belief, (2) the **stem** of a matchstick A rose has thorns on its **stem**.

#### chain

n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shacklesynonym: series, string, link

(1) chain reaction, (2) supply chain

The **chain** on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.

#### illustration

 a picture or diagram in a book, magazine, or newspaper that is used to explain or decorate the text; the act or process of explaining something

synonym: picture, diagram, explanation

(1) educational **illustration**, (2) **illustration** artist The **illustration** in the book helped me understand the concept better.

#### terrestrial

adj. of or relating to the Earth; relating to or inhabiting the land or the ground as opposed to the sea or airsynonym: earthy, earthborn, telluric

(1) terrestrial planets, (2) terrestrial heat

**Terrestrial** longitude is measured in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian.

#### branch

 a division of a tree or woody shrub that grows out from the trunk or a main stem; a division of some larger or more complex organization

synonym: limb, twig, bough

(1) branch office, (2) a branch pipe

The **branch** of the tree had fallen and blocked the road.

# underground

adj. under the surface of the ground; a secret group organized to achieve a specific purpose, such as overthrowing the government or occupying a force

synonym: subterranean, subsurface, confidential

(1) water flowing **underground**, (2) **underground** activist Having **underground** parking has been very beneficial throughout the winter.

#### eventually

adv. finally, particularly after a long time or a lot of struggle, complications, and so on

*synonym*: finally, someday, ultimately

(1) **eventually** become obsolete, (2) **eventually** succeed The corporation **eventually** dominated the entire tobacco business.

# 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

 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.

# decay

 n. the process or state of rotting or decomposition by natural causes such as the action of bacteria and fungi; (verb) to rot or decompose through natural causes

*synonym*: corrosion, decomposition, deterioration

radioactive decay, (2) prevent tooth decay
 The dead body was in an advanced state of decay.

### grim

adj. looking or sounding very serious or gloomysynonym: fierce, harsh, gloomy

(1) **grim** reality, (2) a **grim-featured** man

The result presented a **grim** picture of inefficiency and corruption.

#### ultimate

adj. furthest or highest in degree or ordersynonym: highest, maximum, foremost

(1) the **ultimate** goal in life, (2) the **ultimate** luxury Management must take **ultimate** responsibility for the accident.

#### consume

v. to spend something, especially fuel, energy, or time, in a large amount

synonym: absorb, ingest, use up

(1) **consume** a large of alcohol, (2) **consume** electricity A smaller car will **consume** less fuel.

#### microbe

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

# unexpected

adj. not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen synonym: surprising, unanticipated, incredible

(1) an unexpected visitor, (2) some unexpected events

The **unexpected** rainstorm caused the collapse of the corral.

fuel

 a substance that is typically burned to generate heat or energy

synonym: energy, power, gas

(1) biomass fuel, (2) smokeless fuel

The **fuel** scarcity most severely impacted the manufacturing sector

#### interaction

n. the act of connecting with someone, mainly when working, playing, or spending time with them

*synonym*: dealings, exchange, relations

- (1) the **interaction** between man and his environment,
- (2) interaction among human beings

The **interaction** of the two groups is good for brainstorming.

# represent

v. to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute

synonym: depict, express, describe

(1) **represent** by a diagram, (2) the characters that **represent** numbers

We elected him to **represent** us at the international conference.

# pathway

n. a track that constitutes or serves as a path; an approach or a way of doing something

synonym: route, footpath, trail

(1) **pathway** to understanding, (2) cellular signaling **pathways** 

When the first molecule in the **pathway** receives a signal, it activates other molecules.

# poultry

 domesticated birds kept by humans for their eggs, meat, or feathers

synonym: fowl, chicken, birds

(1) poultry farming, (2) a poultry walk

The **poultry** farm raised chickens and turkeys for meat and eggs.

#### mushroom

 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

 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

 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.

feeder

 an animal being fattened or suitable for fattening; a device or system that supplies something to a particular recipient or process

synonym: supply, provider, dispenser

(1) feeder fish, (2) feeder artery

Many different types of birds visited the bird **feeder**.

# by-product

 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.

# garbage

- n. waste material, especially food waste and kitchen refusesynonym: waste, trash, debris
- (1) **garbage** collection, (2) lump of **garbage**The **garbage** truck will be coming to pick up the trash every Monday morning.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1.	com	ty theory

2. fu\_\_s infection

3. co\_\_\_\_e a large of alcohol

4. tr rm heat into power

5. sc\_\_\_\_er bird

6. the ul\_\_\_te luxury

7. oxygenic pho\_\_\_\_sis

8. lack of ox\_\_\_n

9. fe\_\_\_r artery

- *n.* the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand
- 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

v. to spend something, especially fuel, energy, or time, in a large amount

v. to change in outward structure or looks;

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

adj. furthest or highest in degree or order

- 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.
- n. the chemical element with the symbol O that is present in air and water and is necessary for people, animals, and plants to live
- an animal being fattened or suitable for fattening; a device or system that supplies something to a particular recipient or process

ANSWERS: 1. complexity, 2. fungus, 3. consume, 4. transform, 5. scavenger, 6. ultimate, 7. photosynthesis, 8. oxygen, 9. feeder

10. mo\_\_\_\_le behavior a group of two or more atoms held n. together by attractive forces known as chemical bonds 11. edible sh\_\_\_\_sh water creatures that live in shells, n. especially one of the types that can be eaten 12. an une\_\_\_\_ed visitor adj. not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen 13. combined ox e a chemical compound that contains at least one oxygen atom and one other element a living being, especially an animal 14. artificial cr re n. 15. mu\_\_\_om spores a type of fungus that grows on dead or n. decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap 16. a br h pipe a division of a tree or woody shrub that n. grows out from the trunk or a main stem; a division of some larger or more complex organization adj. of or relating to the Earth; relating to or 17. ter\_\_\_\_al planets inhabiting the land or the ground as opposed to the sea or air adj. looking or sounding very serious or 18. a g m-featured man gloomy 19. de\_\_\_\_us pile waste or debris of any kind, particularly organic matter that has decayed or broken off from larger organisms; figuratively, a collection of disorganized

ANSWERS: 10. molecule, 11. shellfish, 12. unexpected, 13. oxide, 14. creature, 15. mushroom, 16. branch, 17. terrestrial, 18. grim, 19. detritus

or discarded material or ideas

ANSWERS: 20. eventually, 21. carbon, 22. interaction, 23. trace, 24. microbe, 25. fuel, 26. scavenger, 27. eventually, 28. expel, 29. poultry, 30. pathway

n.

something

30. cellular signaling pa ys

a track that constitutes or serves as a

path; an approach or a way of doing

a layer of unwanted or unclean material 31. s m of the earth n. 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 a series of connected links or objects; a 32. supply ch n n. system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle 33. coral r\_\_fs a long chain or range of rocks or sand near the ocean's surface 34. p\_\_d water a small, shallow lake n. 35. the ul\_\_\_\_te goal in life adj. furthest or highest in degree or order 36. a di ve enzyme adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food the light emitted by the sun; the rays of 37. a glare of su\_\_\_ht n. the sun 38. ind\_\_\_\_ly related adv. not going straight to the point; implying or suggesting something 39. educational ill\_\_\_\_ion a picture or diagram in a book, n. magazine, or newspaper that is used to explain or decorate the text; the act or process of explaining something adj. of or derived from biological substance; 40. eat or\_\_\_c food producing plants and animals for food and other items without the use of synthetic chemicals 41. of\_\_\_d a customer to cause someone to feel upset, angry, ν. or annoyed

ANSWERS: 31. scum, 32. chain, 33. reef, 34. pond, 35. ultimate, 36. digestive, 37. sunlight, 38. indirectly, 39. illustration, 40. organic, 41. offend

ANSWERS: 42. grim, 43. organic, 44. detritus, 45. sunlight, 46. savannah, 47. illustration, 48. savannah, 49. separate, 50. oxide

element

ANSWERS: 51. poultry, 52. garbage, 53. degree, 54. chain, 55. catfish, 56. transform, 57. scum, 58. underground, 59. stem

have roots in, or originate in

ANSWERS: 60. rot, 61. by-product, 62. by-product, 63. feeder, 64. glucose, 65. interaction, 66. mushroom, 67. decay

ANSWERS: 77. offend, 78. photosynthesis, 79. consume, 80. decay, 81. separate, 82. reef, 83. ecosystem, 84. nourish, 85. underground, 86. creature

87.	teral heat	adj.	of or relating to the Earth; relating to or inhabiting the land or the ground as opposed to the sea or air
88.	dive juices	adj.	relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
89.	r_t with age	v.	to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
90.	the hydrogen binds the oxn	n.	the chemical element with the symbol O that is present in air and water and is necessary for people, animals, and plants to live
91.	chaotic envnt	n.	the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live
92.	biomass fI	n.	a substance that is typically burned to generate heat or energy
93.	indly impact	adv.	not going straight to the point; implying or suggesting something
94.	blood gle test	n.	a type of sugar that is found in plants, especially fruit, and is an essential energy source in living things
95.	exl air from the lungs	<i>v</i> .	to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
96.	brh office	n.	a division of a tree or woody shrub that grows out from the trunk or a main stem; a division of some larger or more complex organization
97.	s_m from a belief	n.	the central part of something from which other parts can develop or grow; the part of a word common to all its inflected variants; (verb) to grow out of, have roots in, or originate in

ANSWERS: 87. terrestrial, 88. digestive, 89. rot, 90. oxygen, 91. environment, 92. fuel, 93. indirectly, 94. glucose, 95. expel, 96. branch, 97. stem

n.	the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand
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
ν.	to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute
ν.	to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
n.	all the plants and living creatures in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment
v.	to find or discover someone or something that was lost
n.	waste material, especially food waste and kitchen refuse
n.	a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
n.	the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live
	n. v. n. n.

ANSWERS: 98. complexity, 99. fungus, 100. represent, 101. nourish, 102. ecosystem, 103. trace, 104. garbage, 105. microbe, 106. environment

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

1.	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
2.	The result presented a picture of inefficiency and corruption.
adj	i. looking or sounding very serious or gloomy
3.	Trees absorb dioxide and give off oxygen.
n.	a chemical element that can be found in pure form as diamond or graphite, and it is also an essential part of coal and oil and is found in all plants and animals
4.	The passenger grabbed for the mask.
n.	the chemical element with the symbol O that is present in air and water and is necessary for people, animals, and plants to live
5.	Management must take responsibility for the accident.
$ad_j$	i. furthest or highest in degree or order
6.	The farm raised chickens and turkeys for meat and eggs.
n.	domesticated birds kept by humans for their eggs, meat, or feathers
7.	The freshwater was home to many different types of fish and was a popular spot for fishing.
n.	a small, shallow lake
8.	Many different types of birds visited the bird
n.	an animal being fattened or suitable for fattening; a device or system that supplies something to a particular recipient or process
	SWERS: 1. Microbes, 2. grim, 3. carbon, 4. oxygen, 5. ultimate, 6. poultry, 7. pond feeder

16.	The of the two groups is good for brainstorming.				
n.	the act of connecting with someone, mainly when working, playing, or spendir time with them	ng			
17.	longitude is measured in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian.				
adj	of or relating to the Earth; relating to or inhabiting the land or the ground as opposed to the sea or air				
18.	The on the pond's surface made seeing the fish swimming below difficult.	ı			
n.	a layer of unwanted or unclean material that forms on the surface of a liquid of a solid, often containing dirt, oil, or other debris, also used figuratively to describe undesirable people or groups	r			
19.	n 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.				
20.	My grandfather's favorite way to spend time was fishing for in the nearby river.				
n.	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				
21.	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	s,			
	SWERS: 16. interaction, 17. Terrestrial, 18. scum, 19. photosynthesis, 20. catfis scavengers	sh,			