

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Jennifer Senior: For parents, happiness is a very high bar | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer\\_senior\\_for\\_parents\\_happiness\\_is\\_a\\_very\\_high\\_bar](https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer_senior_for_parents_happiness_is_a_very_high_bar)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### indulge

*v.* to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat

*synonym*: pamper, gratify, entertain

(1) **indulge** in debauchery, (2) **indulge** children

She **indulged** in a warm bath after a long day at work.

### gluten

*n.* a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye that is responsible for the elastic texture of the dough

*synonym*: wheat protein, wheat starch

(1) **gluten-free** diets, (2) **gluten** intolerance

Many people with celiac disease must avoid **gluten** in their diet.

### creepy

*adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease

*synonym*: eerie, unsettling, spooky

(1) feel **creepy**, (2) **creepy** atmosphere

The old, abandoned house was **creepy** and gave me the chills.

### whiz

*v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very

clever or skilled at something

*synonym* : zoom, zip, hurry

(1) **whiz** kid, (2) **whiz** through the book

The racing car **whizzed** past the grandstands, leaving a trail of dust behind it.

## defuse

*v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved

*synonym* : calm, reduce, deactivate

(1) **defuse** a crisis, (2) **defuse** a bomb

The negotiator skillfully **defused** the tense situation with calm words and gestures.

## anguish

*n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony

*synonym* : distress, torment, agony

(1) **anguish** and pain, (2) emotional **anguish**

She suffered from a deep sense of **anguish** following the loss of her loved one.

## imaginative

*adj.* having or showing new and creative ideas

*synonym* : creative, innovative, inventive

(1) capable of **imaginative** creation, (2) **imaginative** as a child

She is a hard worker but not very **imaginative**.

## acquaintance

*n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend

*synonym* : friend, associate, contact

(1) **acquaintance** with a language, (2) business **acquaintance**

I met him at a party, and we quickly became **acquaintances**.

## underlie

*v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below

*synonym* : govern, control, determine

(1) **underlie** the theory of the big bang, (2) **underlie** the current economic deadlock

His bitter experiences **underlie** his moral principles.

## furious

*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage

*synonym*: angry, rageful, livid

(1) **furious** anger, (2) a **furious** sea

The coach was **furious** with the players for their lack of effort during the game.

## improvisation

*n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

*synonym*: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

## confuse

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym*: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

## ruthless

*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

*synonym*: heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality

The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

## sociologist

*n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

(1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**

**Sociologist** studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

## worthless

*adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering  
*synonym*: valueless, useless, pointless

(1) **worthless** stock, (2) **worthless** coin

The product was found to be **worthless** as it failed to meet the customer's expectations.

## priceless

*adj.* extremely valuable or important  
*synonym*: invaluable, incalculable, precious

(1) **priceless** work of art, (2) **priceless** opportunity

Investigators discovered **priceless** documents throughout the house.

## extracurricular

*adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses  
*synonym*: non-academic, non-curricular, outside

(1) **extracurricular** study, (2) **extracurricular** club

He was heavily involved in **extracurricular** activities and was president of the debate club.

## moth

*n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

## confound

*v.* to confuse or perplex; to mix up or throw into disorder; to prove to be false or illogical

*synonym*: confuse, mix up, perplex

(1) **confound** right and wrong, (2) **confound** the problem

The unexpected events **confounded** the scientists, who had to rethink their hypothesis.

## obsess

*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

*synonym*: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

## mandarin

*n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China

*synonym* : Chinese, Beijing dialect

(1) ancient **mandarin** house, (2) **Mandarin** Chinese  
**Mandarin** dialects typically have relatively few vowels.

## presumption

*n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity

*synonym* : assumption, arrogance, audacity

(1) **presumption** against forfeiture, (2) **presumption** of guilt  
It is a common **presumption** that doctors know best, but patients should always ask questions and be informed about their healthcare decisions.

## breadwinner

*n.* the member of a family who earns money to support the others

(1) family **breadwinner**, (2) two- **breadwinner** couple  
Many women are now their families' primary **breadwinners**.

## gripe

*n.* a minor complaint or criticism, typically expressed in a grumbling or persistent manner; sudden, sharp pain or discomfort in the abdomen; (verb) to grumble or complain about something, often in a persistent, nagging manner

*synonym* : complaint, objection, grumble

(1) minor **gripe**, (2) **gripe** about his sore feet  
One of the most common **gripes** employees have is that they are not paid enough money for their work.

## multitasking

*n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time

*synonym* : juggling, multihandling, parallelism

(1) computer **multitasking**, (2) **multitasking** ability

She could finish all her work on time because of her **multitasking** skills.

## capitulate

*v.* to surrender, especially under agreed-upon conditions, usually after a prolonged resistance; to acknowledge defeat or give in to an opponent or adversary

*synonym*: surrender, yield, give up

(1) **capitulate** under pressure, (2) **capitulate** to fear

The opposing army finally decided to **capitulate** and surrender to the victorious troops.

## cliche

*n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

*synonym*: truism, platitude, stereotype

(1) **cliche** plot, (2) age-old **cliche**

Using the same **cliche** phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

## 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**.

## hippie

*n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values

*synonym*: bohemian, beatnik, free spirit

(1) **hippie** lifestyle, (2) **hippie** music

The fashion of the **hippie** movement included unconventional clothing such as tie-dye shirts and bell-bottom jeans.

## drone

*n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

*synonym* : hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

## paramount

*adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

*synonym* : central, major, crucial

(1) the lord **paramount**, (2) **paramount** to all the others

This country became a country of **paramount** geostrategic importance to us.

## custodian

*n.* a person who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a building, institution, or collection; a guardian or keeper of something valuable or important

*synonym* : caretaker, keeper, guardian

(1) **custodian** bank, (2) **custodian** of the records

The school **custodian** worked tirelessly to keep the building clean and maintained for the students and faculty.

## mantra

*n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

*synonym* : hymn, chant, phrase

(1) campaign **mantra**, (2) chant the **mantra** of structural reform

She repeated her personal **mantra** to herself to stay motivated.

## elusive

*adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

*synonym* : mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

## plow

*n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

*synonym*: plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

## byproduct

*n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else

*synonym*: side effect, spinoff, outgrowth

(1) toxic **byproducts**, (2) **byproduct** of technology

The **byproduct** of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.

## sesame

*n.* an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds

*synonym*: tahini, benne, gingelly

(1) **sesame** oil, (2) **sesame** paste

**Sesame** seeds are often used as a topping on bagels and bread.

## nostalgia

*n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past

*synonym*: longing, wistfulness, yearning

(1) a warm **nostalgia**, (2) **nostalgia** trip

The ice cream truck's sound brought back **nostalgia** for my childhood.

## skit

*n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance

*synonym*: sketch, parody, routine

(1) comedy **skit**, (2) political **skit**

The comedy group performed a hilarious **skit** about life in quarantine.



**grouch**

*n.* a person who is habitually irritable or complaining; a grumpy or ill-tempered person; (verb) to complain or grumble persistently and in a bad-tempered or discontented way

*synonym* : crank, curmudgeon, grump

(1) persistent **grouch**, (2) foul-mouthed **grouch**

The storekeeper was known for being a **grouch** towards his customers.

**depress**

*v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

*synonym* : sadden, discourage, deflate

(1) **depress** their spirits, (2) **depress** crop prices

The economic recession **depressed** the housing market.

**puppet**

*n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else

*synonym* : marionette, dummy, mannequin

(1) **puppet** theater, (2) corporate **puppet**

The politician was merely a **puppet** for the wealthy elite.

**cubicle**

*n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

*synonym* : compartment, booth, workspace

(1) **cubicle** partition, (2) camping **cubicle**

I worked in an office **cubicle** surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.

**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.

**kite**

*n.* a toy made of a light frame covered with cloth or plastic and joined to a long string that you fly in the air

(1) **kite** string, (2) a picture on a **kite**

Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity through experiments with **kites**.

## morphine

*n.* a powerful narcotic drug used to relieve pain and induce sleep

*synonym*: narcotic, painkiller, sedative

(1) **morphine** addiction, (2) synthetic **morphine**

Long-term use of **morphine** can lead to tolerance, physical dependence, and addiction.

## haze

*n.* atmospheric moisture, dust, or smoke that makes it less clear; a state of mental confusion caused by lack of clarity

*synonym*: fog, mist, brume

(1) a **haze** of illusion, (2) **haze** of tears

We couldn't see him through the **haze** of smoke.

## whisper

*v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

*synonym*: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves

He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

## decency

*n.* behavior that is appropriate or suitable in a given context, especially in terms of social norms and moral standards

*synonym*: morality, propriety, decorum

(1) an offense against **decency**, (2) **decency** standards

He always tried to act with **decency**, treating others with respect and kindness.

## ethic

*n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

*synonym*: moral code, code of conduct, principles

(1) moral **ethic**, (2) professional **ethic**

Having a strong work **ethic** is important for success in any field.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. the speaker's dr\_\_e  
*n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
2. wo\_\_\_\_\_ss coin  
*adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering
3. hi\_\_\_e lifestyle  
*n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values
4. an offense against de\_\_\_\_\_y  
*n.* behavior that is appropriate or suitable in a given context, especially in terms of social norms and moral standards
5. he is ob\_\_\_sed with the fear  
*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
6. emotional an\_\_\_\_\_h  
*n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony
7. hi\_\_\_e music  
*n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values
8. pre\_\_\_\_\_on of guilt  
*n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity

ANSWERS: 1. drone, 2. worthless, 3. hippie, 4. decency, 5. obsess, 6. anguish, 7. hippie, 8. presumption

9. cap\_\_\_\_\_te under pressure      *v.* to surrender, especially under agreed-upon conditions, usually after a prolonged resistance; to acknowledge defeat or give in to an opponent or adversary
10. ancient ma\_\_\_\_\_in house      *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
11. camping cu\_\_\_\_\_e      *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
12. a fu\_\_\_\_\_s sea      *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
13. French soc\_\_\_\_\_st      *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
14. answer in a wh\_\_\_\_\_r      *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
15. campaign ma\_\_\_\_\_a      *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
16. pa\_\_\_\_\_nt to all the others      *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
17. imp\_\_\_\_\_ion on stage      *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
18. track down an el\_\_\_\_\_e fact      *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

ANSWERS: 9. capitulate, 10. mandarin, 11. cubicle, 12. furious, 13. sociologist, 14. whisper, 15. mantra, 16. paramount, 17. improvisation, 18. elusive

19. cl\_\_\_e plot *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
20. feel cr\_\_\_y *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
21. comedy s\_\_t *n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
22. capable of ima\_\_\_\_\_ve creation *adj.* having or showing new and creative ideas
23. the wh\_\_\_\_r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
24. w\_\_z kid *v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
25. k\_\_e string *n.* a toy made of a light frame covered with cloth or plastic and joined to a long string that you fly in the air
26. gr\_\_e about his sore feet *n.* a minor complaint or criticism, typically expressed in a grumbling or persistent manner; sudden, sharp pain or discomfort in the abdomen; (verb) to grumble or complain about something, often in a persistent, nagging manner

ANSWERS: 19. cliché, 20. creepy, 21. skit, 22. imaginative, 23. whisper, 24. whiz, 25. kite, 26. gripe

27. foul-mouthed gr\_\_\_h *n.* a person who is habitually irritable or complaining; a grumpy or ill-tempered person; (verb) to complain or grumble persistently and in a bad-tempered or discontented way
28. p\_\_w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
29. in\_\_\_\_\_e in debauchery *v.* to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
30. h\_\_e of tears *n.* atmospheric moisture, dust, or smoke that makes it less clear; a state of mental confusion caused by lack of clarity
31. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
32. gl\_\_\_n intolerance *n.* a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye that is responsible for the elastic texture of the dough
33. by\_\_\_\_\_ct of technology *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
34. gl\_\_\_n-free diets *n.* a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye that is responsible for the elastic texture of the dough
35. se\_\_\_e oil *n.* an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds

ANSWERS: 27. grouch, 28. plow, 29. indulge, 30. haze, 31. confuse, 32. gluten, 33. byproduct, 34. gluten, 35. sesame

36. family bre\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* the member of a family who earns money to support the others
37. toxic by\_\_\_\_\_cts *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
38. co\_\_\_\_\_nd right and wrong *v.* to confuse or perplex; to mix up or throw into disorder; to prove to be false or illogical
39. ru\_\_\_\_\_ss brutality *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
40. cr\_\_\_\_y atmosphere *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
41. un\_\_\_\_\_ie the theory of the big bang *v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
42. wo\_\_\_\_\_ss stock *adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering
43. ima\_\_\_\_\_ve as a child *adj.* having or showing new and creative ideas
44. jazz imp\_\_\_\_\_ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
45. chant the ma\_\_\_\_a of structural reform *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
46. de\_\_\_\_\_s crop prices *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

ANSWERS: 36. breadwinner, 37. byproduct, 38. confound, 39. ruthless, 40. creepy, 41. underlie, 42. worthless, 43. imaginative, 44. improvisation, 45. mantra, 46. depress



47. an el\_\_\_\_\_e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
48. de\_\_\_\_\_s their spirits *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
49. an\_\_\_\_\_h and pain *n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony
50. m\_\_h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
51. de\_\_\_e a bomb *v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
52. cu\_\_\_\_\_an of the records *n.* a person who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a building, institution, or collection; a guardian or keeper of something valuable or important
53. deeply p\_\_w the soil *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
54. age-old cl\_\_\_e *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
55. pr\_\_\_\_\_ss work of art *adj.* extremely valuable or important

ANSWERS: 47. elusive, 48. depress, 49. anguish, 50. moth, 51. defuse, 52. custodian, 53. plow, 54. cliché, 55. priceless

56. de\_\_\_e a crisis v. to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
57. in\_\_\_\_\_e children v. to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
58. cu\_\_\_\_\_e partition n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
59. cap\_\_\_\_\_te to fear v. to surrender, especially under agreed-upon conditions, usually after a prolonged resistance; to acknowledge defeat or give in to an opponent or adversary
60. un\_\_\_\_\_ie the current economic deadlock v. to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below
61. cu\_\_\_\_\_an bank n. a person who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a building, institution, or collection; a guardian or keeper of something valuable or important
62. mul\_\_\_\_\_ing ability n. the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
63. co\_\_\_\_\_nd the problem v. to confuse or perplex; to mix up or throw into disorder; to prove to be false or illogical

ANSWERS: 56. defuse, 57. indulge, 58. cubicle, 59. capitulate, 60. underlie, 61. custodian, 62. multitasking, 63. confound

64. mo\_\_\_\_ne addiction *n.* a powerful narcotic drug used to relieve pain and induce sleep
65. co\_\_\_\_e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
66. no\_\_\_\_ia trip *n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
67. religious soc\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
68. of\_\_\_\_d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
69. business acq\_\_\_\_nce *n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend
70. minor gr\_\_e *n.* a minor complaint or criticism, typically expressed in a grumbling or persistent manner; sudden, sharp pain or discomfort in the abdomen; (verb) to grumble or complain about something, often in a persistent, nagging manner
71. pre\_\_\_\_on against forfeiture *n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity
72. acq\_\_\_\_nce with a language *n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend
73. 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

ANSWERS: 64. morphine, 65. confuse, 66. nostalgia, 67. sociologist, 68. offend, 69. acquaintance, 70. gripe, 71. presumption, 72. acquaintance, 73. guinea

74. ext\_\_\_\_\_lar study *adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses
75. show ru\_\_\_\_\_ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
76. two-bre\_\_\_\_\_er couple *n.* the member of a family who earns money to support the others
77. a h\_\_e of illusion *n.* atmospheric moisture, dust, or smoke that makes it less clear; a state of mental confusion caused by lack of clarity
78. m\_\_h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
79. moral et\_\_c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
80. computer mul\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
81. persistent gr\_\_\_h *n.* a person who is habitually irritable or complaining; a grumpy or ill-tempered person; (verb) to complain or grumble persistently and in a bad-tempered or discontented way
82. ext\_\_\_\_\_lar club *adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses

ANSWERS: 74. extracurricular, 75. ruthless, 76. breadwinner, 77. haze, 78. moth, 79. ethic, 80. multitasking, 81. grouch, 82. extracurricular

83. political s\_\_t *n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
84. corporate pu\_\_\_t *n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
85. de\_\_\_\_y standards *n.* behavior that is appropriate or suitable in a given context, especially in terms of social norms and moral standards
86. pu\_\_\_t theater *n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
87. se\_\_\_e paste *n.* an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds
88. w\_\_z through the book *v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
89. pr\_\_\_\_\_ss opportunity *adj.* extremely valuable or important
90. ob\_\_\_s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 83. skit, 84. puppet, 85. decency, 86. puppet, 87. sesame, 88. whiz, 89. priceless, 90. obsess

91. professional et\_\_c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
92. Ma\_\_\_\_\_in Chinese *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
93. a warm no\_\_\_\_\_ia *n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
94. gu\_\_\_a pig *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
95. of\_\_\_d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
96. synthetic mo\_\_\_\_\_ne *n.* a powerful narcotic drug used to relieve pain and induce sleep
97. dr\_\_e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
98. a picture on a k\_\_e *n.* a toy made of a light frame covered with cloth or plastic and joined to a long string that you fly in the air
99. the lord pa\_\_\_\_\_nt *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

ANSWERS: 91. ethic, 92. mandarin, 93. nostalgia, 94. guinea, 95. offend, 96. morphine, 97. drone, 98. kite, 99. paramount

100. fu\_\_\_\_s anger

*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage

ANSWERS: 100. furious

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ dialects typically have relatively few vowels.
  - n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
  
2. She repeated her personal \_\_\_\_\_ to herself to stay motivated.
  - n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
  
3. The ice cream truck's sound brought back \_\_\_\_\_ for my childhood.
  - n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
  
4. The economic recession \_\_\_\_\_ the housing market.
  - v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
  
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
  - n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
  
6. He heard a \_\_\_\_\_ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
  - n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
  
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
  - n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

ANSWERS: 1. Mandarin, 2. mantra, 3. nostalgia, 4. depressed, 5. byproduct, 6. drone, 7. moth



8. The unexpected events \_\_\_\_\_ the scientists, who had to rethink their hypothesis.
- v.* to confuse or perplex; to mix up or throw into disorder; to prove to be false or illogical
9. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
10. She is a hard worker but not very \_\_\_\_\_.
- adj.* having or showing new and creative ideas
11. This country became a country of \_\_\_\_\_ geostrategic importance to us.
- adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
12. \_\_\_\_\_ seeds are often used as a topping on bagels and bread.
- n.* an annual plant cultivated for its small seeds, which are used for food or oil; a flavoring derived from these seeds
13. Using the same \_\_\_\_\_ phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.
- n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
14. I worked in an office \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.
- n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
15. The physicist who found the \_\_\_\_\_ particle won the Nobel Prize.
- adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

ANSWERS: 8. confounded, 9. confused, 10. imaginative, 11. paramount, 12. Sesame, 13. cliché, 14. cubicle, 15. elusive

16. The politician was merely a \_\_\_\_\_ for the wealthy elite.  
*n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
17. 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
18. He's utterly \_\_\_\_\_ with his promotion.  
*v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
19. Investigators discovered \_\_\_\_\_ documents throughout the house.  
*adj.* extremely valuable or important
20. I met him at a party, and we quickly became \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend
21. The coach was \_\_\_\_\_ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.  
*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
22. The fashion of the \_\_\_\_\_ movement included unconventional clothing such as tie-dye shirts and bell-bottom jeans.  
*n.* a person who follows a counterculture movement that originated in the United States during the 1960s, characterized by the advocacy of nonviolence, communal living, and a rejection of traditional American values
23. His bitter experiences \_\_\_\_\_ his moral principles.  
*v.* to be the support, basis, hidden cause of something; to be located under or below

ANSWERS: 16. puppet, 17. guineas, 18. obsessed, 19. priceless, 20. acquaintances, 21. furious, 22. hippie, 23. underlie

24. One of the most common \_\_\_\_\_ employees have is that they are not paid enough money for their work.
- n.* a minor complaint or criticism, typically expressed in a grumbling or persistent manner; sudden, sharp pain or discomfort in the abdomen; (verb) to grumble or complain about something, often in a persistent, nagging manner
25. She \_\_\_\_\_ in a warm bath after a long day at work.
- v.* to allow oneself or another person to have or enjoy something, especially something that is considered to be a luxury or treat
26. She could finish all her work on time because of her \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
- n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
27. The opposing army finally decided to \_\_\_\_\_ and surrender to the victorious troops.
- v.* to surrender, especially under agreed-upon conditions, usually after a prolonged resistance; to acknowledge defeat or give in to an opponent or adversary
28. It is a common \_\_\_\_\_ that doctors know best, but patients should always ask questions and be informed about their healthcare decisions.
- n.* an idea or belief taken to be true without proof or confirmation; an assumption or hypothesis based on incomplete evidence or understanding; a forward or audacious attitude or behavior that assumes too much authority or familiarity
29. Having a strong work \_\_\_\_\_ is important for success in any field.
- n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

ANSWERS: 24. gripes, 25. indulged, 26. multitasking, 27. capitulate, 28. presumption, 29. ethic

30. His rude comments \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the party.  
*v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
31. The dictator was known for his \_\_\_\_\_ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.  
*adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
32. \_\_\_\_\_ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.  
*n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
33. The storekeeper was known for being a \_\_\_\_\_ towards his customers.  
*n.* a person who is habitually irritable or complaining; a grumpy or ill-tempered person; (verb) to complain or grumble persistently and in a bad-tempered or discontented way
34. The negotiator skillfully \_\_\_\_\_ the tense situation with calm words and gestures.  
*v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
35. Long-term use of \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to tolerance, physical dependence, and addiction.  
*n.* a powerful narcotic drug used to relieve pain and induce sleep
36. He was heavily involved in \_\_\_\_\_ activities and was president of the debate club.  
*adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses
37. The old, abandoned house was \_\_\_\_\_ and gave me the chills.  
*adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease

ANSWERS: 30. offended, 31. ruthless, 32. Sociologist, 33. grouch, 34. defused, 35. morphine, 36. extracurricular, 37. creepy

38. The product was found to be \_\_\_\_\_ as it failed to meet the customer's expectations.

*adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering

39. He took me aside and \_\_\_\_\_ in my ear.

*v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

40. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

41. He always tried to act with \_\_\_\_\_ treating others with respect and kindness.

*n.* behavior that is appropriate or suitable in a given context, especially in terms of social norms and moral standards

42. She suffered from a deep sense of \_\_\_\_\_ following the loss of her loved one.

*n.* severe physical or emotional pain or suffering; distress or mental agony

43. The comedy group performed a hilarious \_\_\_\_\_ about life in quarantine.

*n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance

44. Many women are now their families' primary \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* the member of a family who earns money to support the others

45. The school \_\_\_\_\_ worked tirelessly to keep the building clean and maintained for the students and faculty.

*n.* a person who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a building, institution, or collection; a guardian or keeper of something valuable or important

ANSWERS: 38. worthless, 39. whispered, 40. plow, 41. decency, 42. anguish, 43. skit, 44. breadwinners, 45. custodian

46. We couldn't see him through the \_\_\_\_\_ of smoke.
- n.* atmospheric moisture, dust, or smoke that makes it less clear; a state of mental confusion caused by lack of clarity
47. The racing car \_\_\_\_\_ past the grandstands, leaving a trail of dust behind it.
- v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
48. Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity through experiments with \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a toy made of a light frame covered with cloth or plastic and joined to a long string that you fly in the air
49. Many people with celiac disease must avoid \_\_\_\_\_ in their diet.
- n.* a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye that is responsible for the elastic texture of the dough
50. He created a beautiful piece of music using only \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

ANSWERS: 46. haze, 47. whizzed, 48. kites, 49. gluten, 50. improvisation