

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Amy Webb: How I hacked online dating | TED Talk  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/amy\\_webb\\_how\\_i\\_hacked\\_online\\_dating](https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_webb_how_i_hacked_online_dating)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### picky

*adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences

*synonym* : fussy, choosy, particular

(1) **picky** personality, (2) **picky** about details

My **picky** eater only likes to eat certain types of vegetables.

### breakup

*n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

*synonym* : breakdown, divorce, separation

(1) a **breakup** hug, (2) air **breakup**

He got over the big **breakup** with his wife.

### monogamy

*n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

*synonym* : marriage, monandry, monogamousness

(1) **monogamy** rules, (2) practice **monogamy**

Many religious institutions promote **monogamy** as the ideal form of marriage.

### cohabit

*v.* to live together in a sexual relationship without being married; to inhabit or occupy the same space or dwelling

*synonym* :

live together, reside, dwell

(1) **cohabit** with partner, (2) **cohabit** without marriage

My boyfriend and I plan to **cohabit** for a year before deciding to get married.

## serendipity

*n.* the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way; a fortunate accident or discovery

*synonym* : luck, chance, fortune

(1) **serendipity** moment, (2) **serendipity** discovery

The discovery of penicillin was a result of **serendipity**.

## probabilistic

*adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

*synonym* : probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

## Jewish

*adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

*synonym* : Judaic

(1) **Jewish** history, (2) **Jewish** culture

My friend is a **Jewish** woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

## avid

*adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity

*synonym* : enthusiastic, eager, fervent

(1) **avid** baseball fan, (2) have **avid** eyes

She was an **avid** reader and spent hours every day lost in a book.

## matchmake

*v.* to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker

*synonym* :

arrange marriages, pair up, introduce people

(1) **matchmake** a couple, (2) **matchmake** people based on their interests

She tried to **matchmake** her two friends on a blind date, but it was a disaster.

## rabbi

*n.* a Jewish religious leader or a Jewish scholar or teacher  
*synonym*: clergyman, priest, teacher

(1) son of a **rabbi**, (2) the city's communal **rabbi**

The chief **rabbi** chanted a prayer.

## monetize

*v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money

*synonym*: mint, make profit

(1) **monetize** my skill, (2) **monetize** nickel

He explored ways to **monetize** his digital content.

## fluent

*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

*synonym*: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

## gadget

*n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

*synonym*: appliance, gimmick, device

(1) a handy **gadget**, (2) time-saving **gadget**

I found the kitchen **gadget** that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

## appetizer

*n.* a small dish served before a meal to stimulate the appetite

*synonym*: starter, hors d'oeuvre, nibble

(1) pre-dinner **appetizer**, (2) **appetizer** snack

The grilled shrimp served as a special **appetizer** for the dinner's main course.

**entree**

*n.* a main course or dish in a meal often served after an appetizer or soup

*synonym* : main course, dish, plate

(1) **entree** special, (2) vegetarian **entree**

I ordered the steak **entree** with a side of mashed potatoes and vegetables.

**gasp**

*v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

*synonym* : breathe, pant, heave

(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock

The audience **gasped** when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

**needless**

*adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences

*synonym* : unnecessary, pointless, superfluous

(1) **needless** argument, (2) **needless** waste

This **needless** paperwork is wasting our time and resources.

**shove**

*v.* to push someone or something in a rough way

*synonym* : push, jab, elbow

(1) **shove** a person aside, (2) **shove** hamburger into my mouth

He forcibly **shoved** the flyer into my bag.

**crunch**

*n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

*synonym* : crushing, snapping, crisis

(1) financial **crunch**, (2) a gas **crunch**

The **crunch** of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.

**scotch**

*v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or

someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom

*synonym*: halt, stop, block

(1) **scotch** any further debate, (2) **scotch** the deal

I need to **scotch** these rumors before they spread any further.

## kink

*n.* a tight curl, twist or bend in an object, particularly in a piece of wire, hose, or tubing; a peculiar or eccentric liking or habit

*synonym*: bend, twist, curl

(1) **kink** in the neck, (2) sexual **kink**

The **kink** in the hose was preventing water from flowing correctly.

## superficial

*adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely

*synonym*: shallow, facile, cursory

(1) **superficial** wound, (2) **superficial** knowledge

The journalist's **superficial** reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.

## amass

*v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference

*synonym*: gather, collect, accumulate

(1) **amass** a patent portfolio, (2) **amass** followers

She had **amassed** a fortune through wise investments and shrewd business decisions.

## synagogue

*n.* (also "shul") a Jewish house of worship, typically consisting of a hall for prayer and study and often containing a sanctuary, a social hall, and a collection of administrative offices

*synonym*: temple, shul, tabernacle

(1) reconstructed **synagogue**, (2) historical **synagogue**

We attended services at the local **synagogue** during the High Holidays.

## wrangle

*n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter

*synonym*: argument, dispute, quarrel

(1) **wrangle** over money, (2) political **wrangle**

The two politicians had a heated **wrangle** over the proposed tax reform.

## fling

*v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry

*synonym*: throw, dump, hurl

(1) **fling** a stream of abuse, (2) **fling** a door open forcefully

He was provoked to **fling** the draft on the floor.

## prioritize

*v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

*synonym*: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

## scraping

*n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

*synonym*: abrading, scratching, rubbing

(1) **scraping** tools, (2) metal **scraping**

The **scraping** sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.

## hallmark

*n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing

*synonym*: symbol, authentication, indication

(1) the **hallmark** of a good scientist, (2) the **hallmark** of modern life

A clear and simple expression is the **hallmark** of good writing.

## nonspecific

*adj.* not specific or detailed; lacking precise definition or differentiation; not limited to a particular thing, person, or situation

*synonym*: indeterminate, unspecific, vague

(1) **nonspecific** changes, (2) **nonspecific** antibody

The patient complained of **nonspecific** pain in their lower abdomen.

## arctic

*adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold

*synonym*: cold, frozen, polar

(1) **arctic** ice, (2) high **arctic**

Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the **arctic** climate.

## fluffy

*adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur

*synonym*: soft, feathery, puffy

(1) **fluffy** clouds, (2) **fluffy** blanket

The kitten had **fluffy** fur that was soft to the touch.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. sc\_\_\_h the deal  
*v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
2. k\_\_k in the neck  
*n.* a tight curl, twist or bend in an object, particularly in a piece of wire, hose, or tubing; a peculiar or eccentric liking or habit
3. ma\_\_\_\_\_ke people based on their interests  
*v.* to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker
4. fl\_\_\_y clouds  
*adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
5. a handy ga\_\_\_t  
*n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
6. ne\_\_\_\_\_ss argument  
*adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
7. am\_\_s a patent portfolio  
*v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference
8. fl\_\_g a stream of abuse  
*v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry

ANSWERS: 1. scotch, 2. kink, 3. matchmake, 4. fluffy, 5. gadget, 6. needless, 7. amass, 8. fling



9. practice mo\_\_\_\_my *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
10. en\_\_\_e special *n.* a main course or dish in a meal often served after an appetizer or soup
11. pre-dinner ap\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a small dish served before a meal to stimulate the appetite
12. financial cr\_\_\_h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
13. pi\_\_y about details *adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
14. metal sc\_\_\_\_\_ng *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
15. sh\_\_e hamburger into my mouth *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
16. pri\_\_\_\_\_ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
17. air br\_\_\_\_\_p *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

ANSWERS: 9. monogamy, 10. entree, 11. appetizer, 12. crunch, 13. picky, 14. scraping, 15. shove, 16. prioritize, 17. breakup

18. a br\_\_\_\_p hug *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
19. political wr\_\_\_\_e *n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
20. fl\_\_g a door open forcefully *v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry
21. am\_\_s followers *v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference
22. mo\_\_\_\_my rules *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
23. sc\_\_\_h any further debate *v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
24. reconstructed sy\_\_\_\_ue *n.* (also "shul") a Jewish house of worship, typically consisting of a hall for prayer and study and often containing a sanctuary, a social hall, and a collection of administrative offices

ANSWERS: 18. breakup, 19. wrangle, 20. fling, 21. amass, 22. monogamy, 23. scotch, 24. synagogue

25. pro\_\_\_\_\_tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
26. the city's communal ra\_\_i *n.* a Jewish religious leader or a Jewish scholar or teacher
27. g\_\_p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
28. son of a ra\_\_i *n.* a Jewish religious leader or a Jewish scholar or teacher
29. ar\_\_\_c ice *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
30. high ar\_\_\_c *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
31. pi\_\_y personality *adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
32. pri\_\_\_\_\_ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
33. in a fl\_\_\_t tone *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
34. time-saving ga\_\_\_t *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

ANSWERS: 25. probabilistic, 26. rabbi, 27. gasp, 28. rabbi, 29. arctic, 30. arctic, 31. picky, 32. prioritize, 33. fluent, 34. gadget

35. co\_\_\_\_t with partner      *v.* to live together in a sexual relationship without being married; to inhabit or occupy the same space or dwelling
36. historical sy\_\_\_\_\_ue      *n.* (also "shul") a Jewish house of worship, typically consisting of a hall for prayer and study and often containing a sanctuary, a social hall, and a collection of administrative offices
37. the ha\_\_\_\_rk of modern life      *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
38. have a\_\_d eyes      *adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity
39. co\_\_\_\_t without marriage      *v.* to live together in a sexual relationship without being married; to inhabit or occupy the same space or dwelling
40. Je\_\_\_\_h culture      *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
41. sh\_\_e a person aside      *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
42. non\_\_\_\_\_ic changes      *adj.* not specific or detailed; lacking precise definition or differentiation; not limited to a particular thing, person, or situation
43. g\_\_p for air      *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
44. a gas cr\_\_\_\_h      *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

ANSWERS: 35. cohabit, 36. synagogue, 37. hallmark, 38. avid, 39. cohabit, 40. Jewish, 41. shove, 42. nonspecific, 43. gasp, 44. crunch

45. ser\_\_\_\_\_ty discovery *n.* the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way; a fortunate accident or discovery
46. fl\_\_\_y blanket *adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
47. the ha\_\_\_\_\_rk of a good scientist *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
48. pro\_\_\_\_\_tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
49. ma\_\_\_\_\_ke a couple *v.* to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker
50. ap\_\_\_\_\_er snack *n.* a small dish served before a meal to stimulate the appetite
51. fl\_\_\_t Chinese *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
52. Je\_\_\_h history *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
53. sc\_\_\_\_\_ng tools *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

ANSWERS: 45. serendipity, 46. fluffy, 47. hallmark, 48. probabilistic, 49. matchmake, 50. appetizer, 51. fluent, 52. Jewish, 53. scraping

54. ser\_\_\_\_\_ty moment *n.* the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way; a fortunate accident or discovery
55. a\_\_d baseball fan *adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity
56. mo\_\_\_\_\_ze nickel *v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
57. sup\_\_\_\_\_al wound *adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
58. non\_\_\_\_\_ic antibody *adj.* not specific or detailed; lacking precise definition or differentiation; not limited to a particular thing, person, or situation
59. sexual k\_\_k *n.* a tight curl, twist or bend in an object, particularly in a piece of wire, hose, or tubing; a peculiar or eccentric liking or habit
60. vegetarian en\_\_\_e *n.* a main course or dish in a meal often served after an appetizer or soup
61. wr\_\_\_\_\_e over money *n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
62. mo\_\_\_\_\_ze my skill *v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money

ANSWERS: 54. serendipity, 55. avid, 56. monetize, 57. superficial, 58. nonspecific, 59. kink, 60. entree, 61. wrangle, 62. monetize

63. ne\_\_\_\_ss waste

*adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences

64. sup\_\_\_\_\_al knowledge

*adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely

ANSWERS: 63. needless, 64. superficial

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She learned five languages but is only \_\_\_\_\_ in two of them.  
*adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
2. I found the kitchen \_\_\_\_\_ that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.  
*n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
3. Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the \_\_\_\_\_ climate.  
*adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
4. My \_\_\_\_\_ eater only likes to eat certain types of vegetables.  
*adj.* overly particular or selective, especially about food or other consumable goods; difficult to please or satisfy because of one's specific tastes or preferences
5. Many religious institutions promote \_\_\_\_\_ as the ideal form of marriage.  
*n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
6. In a \_\_\_\_\_ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.  
*adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
7. She had \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune through wise investments and shrewd business decisions.  
*v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference

ANSWERS: 1. fluent, 2. gadget, 3. arctic, 4. picky, 5. monogamy, 6. probabilistic, 7. amassed



8. The \_\_\_\_\_ sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.
- n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
9. The organization \_\_\_\_\_ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
- v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
10. The two politicians had a heated \_\_\_\_\_ over the proposed tax reform.
- n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
11. My boyfriend and I plan to \_\_\_\_\_ for a year before deciding to get married.
- v.* to live together in a sexual relationship without being married; to inhabit or occupy the same space or dwelling
12. A clear and simple expression is the \_\_\_\_\_ of good writing.
- n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
13. The discovery of penicillin was a result of \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way; a fortunate accident or discovery
14. The audience \_\_\_\_\_ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
- v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

ANSWERS: 8. scraping, 9. prioritized, 10. wrangle, 11. cohabit, 12. hallmark, 13. serendipity, 14. gasped

15. The journalist's \_\_\_\_\_ reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.  
*adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.  
*n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
17. He explored ways to \_\_\_\_\_ his digital content.  
*v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
18. I ordered the steak \_\_\_\_\_ with a side of mashed potatoes and vegetables.  
*n.* a main course or dish in a meal often served after an appetizer or soup
19. He forcibly \_\_\_\_\_ the flyer into my bag.  
*v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
20. The kitten had \_\_\_\_\_ fur that was soft to the touch.  
*adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
21. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ these rumors before they spread any further.  
*v.* to put an end to or stop something from happening or continuing; to prevent, hinder or restrain something or someone from doing or achieving something; (noun, Scotch) things or people from Scotland, which is a country located in the United Kingdom
22. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her two friends on a blind date, but it was a disaster.  
*v.* to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker

ANSWERS: 15. superficial, 16. crunch, 17. monetize, 18. entree, 19. shoved, 20. fluffy, 21. scotch, 22. matchmake

23. He was provoked to \_\_\_\_\_ the draft on the floor.  
*v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry
24. The chief \_\_\_\_\_ chanted a prayer.  
*n.* a Jewish religious leader or a Jewish scholar or teacher
25. The grilled shrimp served as a special \_\_\_\_\_ for the dinner's main course.  
*n.* a small dish served before a meal to stimulate the appetite
26. He got over the big \_\_\_\_\_ with his wife.  
*n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
27. We attended services at the local \_\_\_\_\_ during the High Holidays.  
*n.* (also "shul") a Jewish house of worship, typically consisting of a hall for prayer and study and often containing a sanctuary, a social hall, and a collection of administrative offices
28. She was an \_\_\_\_\_ reader and spent hours every day lost in a book.  
*adj.* characterized by enthusiasm and vigorous pursuit, especially of an interest or activity
29. This \_\_\_\_\_ paperwork is wasting our time and resources.  
*adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
30. The patient complained of \_\_\_\_\_ pain in their lower abdomen.  
*adj.* not specific or detailed; lacking precise definition or differentiation; not limited to a particular thing, person, or situation

ANSWERS: 23. fling, 24. rabbi, 25. appetizer, 26. breakup, 27. synagogue, 28. avid, 29. needless, 30. nonspecific

31. My friend is a \_\_\_\_\_ woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

*adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

32. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the hose was preventing water from flowing correctly.

*n.* a tight curl, twist or bend in an object, particularly in a piece of wire, hose, or tubing; a peculiar or eccentric liking or habit

ANSWERS: 31. Jewish, 32. kink