

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Chris Bliss: Comedy is translation | TED Talk

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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### storytelling

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

*synonym*: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

### solitude

*n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others

*synonym*: isolation, seclusion, loneliness

(1) live in **solitude**, (2) enjoyment of **solitude**

He sought **solitude** in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.

### patriarch

*n.* a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership

*synonym*: father, elder, leader

(1) **Patriarch** of Constantinople, (2) **patriarch** of a religion

The family **patriarch** was a respected elder who was always consulted on important decisions.

### punctuate

*v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically

*synonym*: emphasize, accent, mark

(1) **punctuate** a sentence, (2) **punctuate** his talk

Strikes had also **punctuated** the preceding weeks.

## primal

*adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

*synonym* : original, fundamental, basic

(1) **primal** eras, (2) **primal** fear

The **primal** instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

## visceral

*adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

*synonym* : instinctive, intuitive, gut

(1) **visceral** organ, (2) **visceral** fear

After watching the horror movie, she had a **visceral** reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

## astonishing

*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

*synonym* : surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains

The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

## apropos

*adj.* concerning a particular topic; fitting or appropriate in a given situation; (adverb) at the right time; incidentally or by the way

*synonym* : concerning, relevant, (adverb) timely

(1) **apropos** expression, (2) arrived **apropos**

His **apropos-of-nothing** comment about the weather caught everyone off guard during the business meeting.

## treason

*n.* the act of betraying one's country or government, especially by attempting to overthrow it or give aid and comfort to its enemies; a violation of allegiance or loyalty to one's country or government

*synonym* : betrayal, disloyalty, sedition

(1) high **treason**, (2) arrested for **treason**

The rebels were sentenced to death for committing acts of **treason** against the state.

## crystalline

*adj.* resembling crystal in clarity, transparency, or brilliance; having a highly ordered and symmetrical molecular structure

*synonym* : crystallized, clear, transparent

(1) **crystalline** structure, (2) **crystalline** water

The geologist found a beautiful specimen of a **crystalline** mineral.

## consciously

*adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner

*synonym* : intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**

He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

## daisy

*n.* a wildflower that typically has a yellow disc at the center of a white or pink-and-white flowerhead

*synonym* : marguerite, bellis, chrysanthemum

(1) **daisy** chain, (2) lawn **daisy**

She picked a blue **daisy** from the meadow and placed it in her hair.

## schizophrenia

*n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

*synonym* : psychosis, disorder, mental illness

(1) **schizophrenia** spectrum disorder, (2) **schizophrenia** treatment

The **schizophrenia** patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.

## plunge

*v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

*synonym* : dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his

heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

## obtainable

*adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible

*synonym*: attainable, achievable, reachable

(1) **obtainable** resources, (2) **obtainable** solutions

The information on their website could have been clearer, but I found an **obtainable** answer eventually.

## futile

*adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

*synonym*: useless, worthless, ineffective

(1) **futile** talk, (2) make a **futile** protest

It was **futile** to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

## satire

*n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

*synonym*: irony, mockery, ridicule

(1) **satire** magazine, (2) a pungent **satire**

The comedian's **satire** on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.

## circumvent

*v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle

*synonym*: evade, bypass, outsmart

(1) **circumvent** rules, (2) **circumvent** authority

I took a back road to work on time to **circumvent** the traffic jam.

## ingrained

*adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

*synonym*: inborn, embedded, deep-seated

(1) **ingrained** habit, (2) **ingrained** prejudice

Her fear of dogs was **ingrained** after a traumatic experience in childhood.

## ridicule

*n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

*synonym*: derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

## confer

*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

*synonym*: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

## impersonation

*n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes

*synonym*: imitation, caricature, portrayal

(1) criminal **impersonation**, (2) **impersonation** act

His **impersonation** of the popular actor at the party was spot-on.

## nominate

*v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

*synonym*: appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

## pundit

*n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

*synonym* : expert, commentator, punditry

(1) conservative **pundit**, (2) sports **pundit**

The political **pundit** provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.

## verbatim

*adv.* word for word; in the exact words; exactly as spoken or written

*synonym* : word-for-word, exactly, literally

(1) quote his words **verbatim**, (2) **verbatim** transcript

The court reporter transcribed the testimony **verbatim** to ensure accuracy.

## impersonate

*v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire

*synonym* : imitate, mimic, copy

(1) **impersonate** a government official, (2) **impersonate** a character

The comedian is famous for his ability to **impersonate** famous politicians.

## punchline

*n.* the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax

*synonym* : joke, climax, comedic ending

(1) have no **punchline**, (2) the final **punchline**

The **punchline** of the joke was hilarious.

## trait

*n.* a particular feature of your nature

*synonym* : attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

## pew

*n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services

*synonym* : seat, church bench

(1) empty **pew**, (2) wooden **pew**

The church was filled with people sitting on the **pews**, listening to the sermon.

## doubly

*adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance

*synonym*: twice, twofold, in two ways

(1) **doubly** difficult, (2) **doubly** effective

The athlete faced a challenge that was **doubly** daunting because of her injury.

## ironic

*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

*synonym*: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

## misdirect

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

*synonym*: misguide, mislead, botch

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

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

## coincident

*adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

*synonym*: concurrent, accompanying, coextensive

(1) **coincident** indicators, (2) a series of **coincident** events

**Coincident** with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.

## endorphin

*n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being

*synonym* : pain reliever, mood elevator

(1) beta- **endorphin**, (2) **endorphin** rush

The release of **endorphins** during exercise can provide a natural high and help to relieve stress.

## seduce

*v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship

*synonym* : tempt, lure, entice

(1) **seduce** him into crime, (2) **seduce** her mind

He tried to **seduce** her with his charm and good looks.

## adrenaline

*n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

*synonym* : epinephrine

(1) **adrenaline** receptor, (2) **adrenaline** addiction

The band has released a lot of **adrenaline-pumping** rock music.

## alchemy

*n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

*synonym* : sorcery, magic, transmutation

(1) **alchemy** experiment, (2) **alchemy** of emotions

Today, the study of **alchemy** remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

## rev

*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym* : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud



**rev.**

**bastardize**

*v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

*synonym* : corrupt, debase, pervert

(1) **bastardize** a recipe, (2) **bastardize** culture

We do not want to **bastardize** the text's original meaning through poor translations.

**abomination**

*n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive

*synonym* : disgust, outrage, abhorrence

(1) social **abomination**, (2) **abomination** in most cultures

The **abomination** of animal testing is a hotly debated ethical issue.

**epithet**

*n.* a descriptive word or phrase used to characterize or describe someone or something; a term or nickname that highlights a particular quality, attribute, or characteristic

*synonym* : nickname, moniker, label

(1) literary **epithets**, (2) offensive **epithet**

He was given the **epithet** "The King of Rock and Roll" for his iconic contributions to music.

**opportune**

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym* : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

**brag**

*v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

*synonym* : boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge  
Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

## Negro

*n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States

*synonym*: African American

(1) **Negro** literature, (2) American **Negro**

They developed **Negro** blues with a lively rhythm.

## monologue

*n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory

*synonym*: soliloquy, speech, address

(1) inner **monologue**, (2) deliver a **monologue**

The actor's **monologue** was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.

## proclaim

*v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

*synonym*: announce, declare, trumpet

(1) **proclaim** victory, (2) **proclaim** law

The leader **proclaimed** a state of emergency in the country.

## unequivocal

*adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion

*synonym*: apparent, absolute, undeniable

(1) **unequivocal** evidence, (2) receive an **unequivocal** answer

It is **unequivocal** that human activities are the cause of global warming.

## hoax

*n.* a deliberately fabricated deception, often intended to trick or mislead people into believing something that is not true; a practical joke or prank

*synonym*: deception, fraud, trick

(1) suspect a **hoax**, (2) **hoax** email

The newspaper article was revealed to be a **hoax**.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. pl___e a dagger through his heart | v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall   |
| 2. con_____ly aware of a problem     | <i>adv.</i> with awareness; in a deliberate manner  |
| 3. r_v up the crowd                  | <i>n.</i> a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |
| 4. pl___e into the water             | v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall   |
| 5. low-r_v engine                    | <i>n.</i> a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |
| 6. quote his words ve_____im         | <i>adv.</i> word for word; in the exact words; exactly as spoken or written   |
| 7. mi_____ct my anger                | v. to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction   |
| 8. empty p_w                         | <i>n.</i> a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services                                      |

ANSWERS: 1. plunge, 2. consciously, 3. rev, 4. plunge, 5. rev, 6. verbatim, 7. misdirect, 8. pew

9. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
10. a pungent sa\_\_\_e *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
11. cry\_\_\_\_\_ne structure *adj.* resembling crystal in clarity, transparency, or brilliance; having a highly ordered and symmetrical molecular structure
12. ir\_\_\_c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
13. in\_\_\_\_\_ed habit *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
14. chemical tr\_\_t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
15. adr\_\_\_\_\_ne addiction *n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
16. public ri\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

ANSWERS: 9. opportune, 10. satire, 11. crystalline, 12. ironic, 13. ingrained, 14. trait, 15. adrenaline, 16. ridicule

17. enjoyment of so\_\_\_\_de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
18. vi\_\_\_\_al fear *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
19. social abo\_\_\_\_on *n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
20. arrived ap\_\_\_\_s *adj.* concerning a particular topic; fitting or appropriate in a given situation; (adverb) at the right time; incidentally or by the way
21. fu\_\_\_\_e talk *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
22. h\_\_x email *n.* a deliberately fabricated deception, often intended to trick or mislead people into believing something that is not true; a practical joke or prank
23. wooden p\_w *n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services
24. mi\_\_\_\_ct the letter *v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
25. ve\_\_\_\_im transcript *adv.* word for word; in the exact words; exactly as spoken or written

ANSWERS: 17. solitude, 18. visceral, 19. abomination, 20. apropos, 21. futile, 22. hoax, 23. pew, 24. misdirect, 25. verbatim

26. sch\_\_\_\_\_nia spectrum disorder      *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
27. suspect a h\_\_x      *n.* a deliberately fabricated deception, often intended to trick or mislead people into believing something that is not true; a practical joke or prank
28. al\_\_\_\_\_y experiment      *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
29. inner mo\_\_\_\_\_ue      *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
30. an ir\_\_\_c turn of events      *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
31. abo\_\_\_\_\_on in most cultures      *n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
32. do\_\_\_y effective      *adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance

ANSWERS: 26. schizophrenia, 27. hoax, 28. alchemy, 29. monologue, 30. ironic, 31. abomination, 32. doubly

33. coi\_\_\_\_\_nt indicators *adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
34. offensive ep\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* a descriptive word or phrase used to characterize or describe someone or something; a term or nickname that highlights a particular quality, attribute, or characteristic
35. no\_\_\_\_\_te him for an award *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
36. en\_\_\_\_\_in rush *n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being
37. receive an une\_\_\_\_\_al answer *adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
38. b\_\_g to each other *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
39. da\_\_y chain *n.* a wildflower that typically has a yellow disc at the center of a white or pink-and-white flowerhead
40. the final pu\_\_\_\_\_ne *n.* the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax
41. obt\_\_\_\_\_le solutions *adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible

ANSWERS: 33. coincident, 34. epithet, 35. nominate, 36. endorphin, 37. unequivocal, 38. brag, 39. daisy, 40. punchline, 41. obtainable



42. pr\_\_\_\_\_im law *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
43. American Ne\_\_o *n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
44. imp\_\_\_\_\_te a government official *v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire
45. sto\_\_\_\_\_ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
46. sch\_\_\_\_\_nia treatment *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
47. co\_\_\_\_r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
48. deliver a mo\_\_\_\_\_ue *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
49. make a fu\_\_\_\_e protest *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
50. cry\_\_\_\_\_ne water *adj.* resembling crystal in clarity, transparency, or brilliance; having a highly ordered and symmetrical molecular structure

ANSWERS: 42. proclaim, 43. Negro, 44. impersonate, 45. storytelling, 46. schizophrenia, 47. confer, 48. monologue, 49. futile, 50. crystalline

51. cir\_\_\_\_\_nt authority      *v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
52. se\_\_\_e him into crime      *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
53. ap\_\_\_\_\_s expression      *adj.* concerning a particular topic; fitting or appropriate in a given situation; (adverb) at the right time; incidentally or by the way
54. in\_\_\_\_\_ed prejudice      *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
55. criminal imp\_\_\_\_\_ion      *n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes
56. pu\_\_\_\_\_te his talk      *v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
57. pr\_\_\_l fear      *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
58. do\_\_\_y difficult      *adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance
59. bas\_\_\_\_\_ze a recipe      *v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

ANSWERS: 51. circumvent, 52. seduce, 53. apropos, 54. ingrained, 55. impersonation, 56. punctuate, 57. primal, 58. doubly, 59. bastardize

60. obt\_\_\_\_\_le resources *adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible
61. une\_\_\_\_\_al evidence *adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
62. high tr\_\_\_\_\_n *n.* the act of betraying one's country or government, especially by attempting to overthrow it or give aid and comfort to its enemies; a violation of allegiance or loyalty to one's country or government
63. literary ep\_\_\_\_\_ts *n.* a descriptive word or phrase used to characterize or describe someone or something; a term or nickname that highlights a particular quality, attribute, or characteristic
64. Pa\_\_\_\_\_ch of Constantinople *n.* a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership
65. adr\_\_\_\_\_ne receptor *n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
66. make ast\_\_\_\_\_ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
67. ri\_\_\_\_\_le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

ANSWERS: 60. obtainable, 61. unequivocal, 62. treason, 63. epithet, 64. patriarch, 65. adrenaline, 66. astonishing, 67. ridicule

68. sports pu\_\_\_t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
69. se\_\_\_e her mind *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
70. lawn da\_\_y *n.* a wildflower that typically has a yellow disc at the center of a white or pink-and-white flowerhead
71. vi\_\_\_\_\_al organ *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
72. no\_\_\_\_\_te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
73. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
74. Ne\_\_o literature *n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
75. live in so\_\_\_\_\_de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
76. ast\_\_\_\_\_ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

ANSWERS: 68. pundit, 69. seduce, 70. daisy, 71. visceral, 72. nominate, 73. storytelling, 74. Negro, 75. solitude, 76. astonishing

77. imp\_\_\_\_\_ion act *n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes
78. act con\_\_\_\_\_ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
79. arrested for tr\_\_\_\_\_n *n.* the act of betraying one's country or government, especially by attempting to overthrow it or give aid and comfort to its enemies; a violation of allegiance or loyalty to one's country or government
80. beta-en\_\_\_\_\_in *n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being
81. have no pu\_\_\_\_\_ne *n.* the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax
82. imp\_\_\_\_\_te a character *v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire
83. b\_\_g about my knowledge *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
84. pr\_\_\_\_\_im victory *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
85. sa\_\_\_e magazine *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

ANSWERS: 77. impersonation, 78. consciously, 79. treason, 80. endorphin, 81. punchline, 82. impersonate, 83. brag, 84. proclaim, 85. satire

86. al\_\_\_\_\_y of emotions *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
87. pa\_\_\_\_\_ch of a religion *n.* a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership
88. personality tr\_\_ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
89. a series of coi\_\_\_\_\_nt events *adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
90. cir\_\_\_\_\_nt rules *v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
91. pu\_\_\_\_\_te a sentence *v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
92. pr\_\_\_l eras *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
93. conservative pu\_\_\_t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
94. co\_\_\_r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 86. alchemy, 87. patriarch, 88. trait, 89. coincident, 90. circumvent, 91. punctuate, 92. primal, 93. pundit, 94. confer

95. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

96. bas\_\_\_\_\_ze culture

*v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

ANSWERS: 95. opportune, 96. bastardize

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.  
*n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
  
2. It was \_\_\_\_\_ to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.  
*adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
  
3. His \_\_\_\_\_ of the popular actor at the party was spot-on.  
*n.* the act of deliberately imitating or pretending to be someone else, often for comedic or deceptive purposes
  
4. The athlete faced a challenge that was \_\_\_\_\_ daunting because of her injury.  
*adv.* to twice the extent or degree; in a way that involves two things at once; with twice as much force, effect, or significance
  
5. The leaders of the two countries met to \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue.  
*v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
  
6. The geologist found a beautiful specimen of a \_\_\_\_\_ mineral.  
*adj.* resembling crystal in clarity, transparency, or brilliance; having a highly ordered and symmetrical molecular structure
  
7. The church was filled with people sitting on the \_\_\_\_\_ listening to the sermon.  
*n.* a long bench or seating area, typically found in churches, designed to accommodate multiple people during religious services

ANSWERS: 1. ridicule, 2. futile, 3. impersonation, 4. doubly, 5. confer, 6. crystalline, 7. pews,



8. The information on their website could have been clearer, but I found an \_\_\_\_\_ answer eventually.

*adj.* capable of being obtained, acquired, or reached; accessible

9. The company's profits \_\_\_\_\_ after the recall of their new product.

*v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

10. He sought \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.

*n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others

11. The release of \_\_\_\_\_ during exercise can provide a natural high and help to relieve stress.

*n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being

12. I took a back road to work on time to \_\_\_\_\_ the traffic jam.

*v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle

13. The comedian is famous for his ability to \_\_\_\_\_ famous politicians.

*v.* to pretend to be someone else, often with the intent to deceive or defraud; to imitate the mannerisms or speech of another person as a form of tribute or satire

14. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

ANSWERS: 8. obtainable, 9. plunged, 10. solitude, 11. endorphins, 12. circumvent, 13. impersonate, 14. ironic

15. The actor's \_\_\_\_\_ was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.  
*n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.  
*adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
17. The newspaper article was revealed to be a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a deliberately fabricated deception, often intended to trick or mislead people into believing something that is not true; a practical joke or prank
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ of animal testing is a hotly debated ethical issue.  
*n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
19. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.  
*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
20. The leader \_\_\_\_\_ a state of emergency in the country.  
*v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
21. The family \_\_\_\_\_ was a respected elder who was always consulted on important decisions.  
*n.* a man who is the head of a family or tribe or a man who is revered because of his age, wisdom, or spiritual leadership
22. \_\_\_\_\_ with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.  
*adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

ANSWERS: 15. monologue, 16. primal, 17. hoax, 18. abomination, 19. storytelling, 20. proclaimed, 21. patriarch, 22. Coincident

23. She picked a blue \_\_\_\_\_ from the meadow and placed it in her hair.
- n.* a wildflower that typically has a yellow disc at the center of a white or pink-and-white flowerhead
24. They developed \_\_\_\_\_ blues with a lively rhythm.
- n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
25. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from \_\_\_\_\_ about his success.
- v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
26. Today, the study of \_\_\_\_\_ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy
- n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
27. I believe this analysis is \_\_\_\_\_ to some extent.
- v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
28. Her fear of dogs was \_\_\_\_\_ after a traumatic experience in childhood.
- adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
29. The rebels were sentenced to death for committing acts of \_\_\_\_\_ against the state.
- n.* the act of betraying one's country or government, especially by attempting to overthrow it or give aid and comfort to its enemies; a violation of allegiance or loyalty to one's country or government

ANSWERS: 23. daisy, 24. Negro, 25. bragging, 26. alchemy, 27. misdirected, 28. ingrained, 29. treason

30. The news of her sudden death was \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who knew her.  
*adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
31. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her with his charm and good looks.  
*v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
32. The political \_\_\_\_\_ provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.  
*n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
33. It is \_\_\_\_\_ that human activities are the cause of global warming.  
*adj.* admitting of no doubt; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion
34. The comedian's \_\_\_\_\_ on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.  
*n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
35. Multiple genes may influence behavioral \_\_\_\_\_ concurrently.  
*n.* a particular feature of your nature
36. We do not want to \_\_\_\_\_ the text's original meaning through poor translations.  
*v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

ANSWERS: 30. astonishing, 31. seduce, 32. pundit, 33. unequivocal, 34. satire, 35. traits, 36. bastardize

37. The organization \_\_\_\_\_ her to be the next president.
- v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
38. The court reporter transcribed the testimony \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure accuracy.
- adv.* word for word; in the exact words; exactly as spoken or written
39. The band has released a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ rock music.
- n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
40. He was given the \_\_\_\_\_ "The King of Rock and Roll" for his iconic contributions to music.
- n.* a descriptive word or phrase used to characterize or describe someone or something; a term or nickname that highlights a particular quality, attribute, or characteristic
41. After watching the horror movie, she had a \_\_\_\_\_ reaction and couldn't sleep all night.
- adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
42. Strikes had also \_\_\_\_\_ the preceding weeks.
- v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
43. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 37. nominated, 38. verbatim, 39. adrenaline-pumping, 40. epithet, 41. visceral, 42. punctuated, 43. opportune

44. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_.

- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

45. His \_\_\_\_\_ comment about the weather caught everyone off guard during the business meeting.

- adj.* concerning a particular topic; fitting or appropriate in a given situation; (adverb) at the right time; incidentally or by the way

46. He \_\_\_\_\_ criticizes her in the publicity.

- adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner

47. The \_\_\_\_\_ patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.

- n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

48. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the joke was hilarious.

- n.* the final sentence or phrase in a joke, which is intended to be funny or surprising and to bring the joke to a climax

ANSWERS: 44. rev, 45. apropos-of-nothing, 46. consciously, 47. schizophrenia, 48. punchline