

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joe Smith: How to use a paper towel | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/joe\\_smith\\_how\\_to\\_use\\_a\\_paper\\_towel](https://www.ted.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_a_paper_towel)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### pound

*n.* the standard unit of money in the UK; the standard unit of weight equal to 16 ounces

(1) three-fourths of a **pound**, (2) thousands of **pounds**

The car's front bumper cost fifteen hundred **pounds**.

### usage

*n.* the way in which a word or phrase is used in a language; the extent in which how much something is used

*synonym*: utilization, practice, habit

(1) monthly **usage** amount, (2) linguistic **usage**

The machine had been damaged by rough **usage**.

### dispense

*v.* to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients

*synonym*: distribute, allocate, deal out

(1) **dispense** with ceremony, (2) **dispense** justice

The pharmacist started to **dispense** medication to patients.

### threefold

*adj.* three times as great or as many

*synonym*: three, triple, three times

(1) rise nearly **threefold**, (2) **threefold** increase

The price of the item was reduced **threefold** after the sale.

## typical

*adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things

*synonym* : characteristic, usual, distinctive

(1) **typical** leader, (2) fairly **typical** symptoms

This artwork is **typical** of her work.

## recycle

*v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

*synonym* : reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

## absorb

*v.* to take in a fluid or other substance gradually

*synonym* : consume, soak, ingest

(1) **absorb** energy, (2) **absorb** a shock

The sponge **absorbs** water well.

## blacksmith

*n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

(1) **blacksmith** welding, (2) **blacksmith** shop

The **blacksmith** shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

## apostle

*n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings

*synonym* : messenger, envoy, delegate

(1) **Apostle** Paul, (2) an **apostle** of revolution

The twelve **apostles** were Jesus' closest followers and were chosen to spread his teachings.

## tribe

*n.* a social group made up of members who live together, sharing the same language, culture, religion, etc., especially those who do not live in towns or cities

*synonym* : family, clan, kinsfolk

(1) aboriginal **tribe**, (2) mountain **tribe**

The **tribe** had distinctly defined gender roles.

## **zodiac**

*n.* a band or belt of the imaginary celestial sphere divided into twelve equal parts, each named after and associated with a particular constellation; any similar system of division or categorization based on astrological or astronomical concepts

*synonym* : star chart, astrological sign

(1) **zodiac** stone, (2) **zodiac** circle

Her horoscope predicted a surprise encounter with a stranger, which aligned with her **zodiac** sign.

## **syllable**

*n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants

(1) **syllable** structure, (2) single **syllable**

Emphasize the second **syllable** when pronouncing it.

## **interstice**

*n.* a small space or gap between parts or objects, often within a larger structure; a break or interval between events or periods

*synonym* : gap, crevice, interval

(1) cracked **interstice**, (2) fill in the **interstice**

There was a small **interstice** between the two buildings, just enough space to squeeze through.

## **suspension**

*n.* the act of delaying or stopping something happening, operating, etc., for a period of time; a mechanical system of springs or shock absorbers connecting the wheels and axles

*synonym* : moratorium, abeyance, break

(1) **suspension** of arms, (2) **suspension** bridge

The court ordered a long-term **suspension** of business.

## **crack**

*v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

*synonym* : snap, burst, break

(1) **crack** an eggshell, (2) a **crack** in a board  
He that would eat the kernel must **crack** the nut.

## fancy

v. to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy

*synonym*: imagine, visualize, (noun) fantasy

(1) **fancy** a cup of coffee, (2) a flight of **fancy**

I don't **fancy** acting in such an important role.

## invention

n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

*synonym*: creation, design, innovation

(1) the **invention** of new techniques, (2) common **invention**

Necessity is the mother of **invention**.

## toilet

n. a bowl-shaped plumbing fixture with a seat for defecation and urination, or a room or building containing one or more of this fixture

*synonym*: bathroom, lavatory, washroom

(1) **toilet** paper, (2) **toilet** seat

She walked to the **toilet** to freshen up before the meeting.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. ty\_\_\_\_l leader  
*adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
2. zo\_\_\_c circle  
*n.* a band or belt of the imaginary celestial sphere divided into twelve equal parts, each named after and associated with a particular constellation; any similar system of division or categorization based on astrological or astronomical concepts
3. fairly ty\_\_\_\_l symptoms  
*adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
4. bla\_\_\_\_\_th welding  
*n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
5. single sy\_\_\_\_le  
*n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
6. a flight of fa\_\_y  
*v.* to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy
7. th\_\_\_\_\_ld increase  
*adj.* three times as great or as many
8. di\_\_\_\_se with ceremony  
*v.* to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
9. linguistic us\_\_e  
*n.* the way in which a word or phrase is used in a language; the extent in which how much something is used

ANSWERS: 1. typical, 2. zodiac, 3. typical, 4. blacksmith, 5. syllable, 6. fancy, 7. threefold, 8. dispense, 9. usage

10. rise nearly th\_\_\_\_\_ld *adj.* three times as great or as many
11. a cr\_\_k in a board *v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking
12. monthly us\_\_e amount *n.* the way in which a word or phrase is used in a language; the extent in which how much something is used
13. ab\_\_\_b a shock *v.* to take in a fluid or other substance gradually
14. mountain tr\_\_e *n.* a social group made up of members who live together, sharing the same language, culture, religion, etc., especially those who do not live in towns or cities
15. sus\_\_\_\_\_on bridge *n.* the act of delaying or stopping something happening, operating, etc., for a period of time; a mechanical system of springs or shock absorbers connecting the wheels and axles
16. di\_\_\_\_\_se justice *v.* to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
17. re\_\_\_\_\_e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
18. fill in the int\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* a small space or gap between parts or objects, often within a larger structure; a break or interval between events or periods

ANSWERS: 10. threefold, 11. crack, 12. usage, 13. absorb, 14. tribe, 15. suspension, 16. dispense, 17. recycle, 18. interstice

19. Ap\_\_\_\_\_e Paul *n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
20. to\_\_\_\_t paper *n.* a bowl-shaped plumbing fixture with a seat for defecation and urination, or a room or building containing one or more of this fixture
21. thousands of po\_\_ds *n.* the standard unit of money in the UK; the standard unit of weight equal to 16 ounces
22. re\_\_\_\_\_e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
23. sy\_\_\_\_\_le structure *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
24. three-fourths of a po\_\_d *n.* the standard unit of money in the UK; the standard unit of weight equal to 16 ounces
25. bla\_\_\_\_\_th shop *n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
26. the in\_\_\_\_\_on of new techniques *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
27. cr\_\_k an eggshell *v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

ANSWERS: 19. apostle, 20. toilet, 21. pound, 22. recycle, 23. syllable, 24. pound, 25. blacksmith, 26. invention, 27. crack

28. to\_\_\_t seat *n.* a bowl-shaped plumbing fixture with a seat for defecation and urination, or a room or building containing one or more of this fixture
29. aboriginal tr\_\_e *n.* a social group made up of members who live together, sharing the same language, culture, religion, etc., especially those who do not live in towns or cities
30. common in\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
31. an ap\_\_\_\_\_e of revolution *n.* one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
32. cracked int\_\_\_\_\_ce *n.* a small space or gap between parts or objects, often within a larger structure; a break or interval between events or periods
33. fa\_\_y a cup of coffee *v.* to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy
34. zo\_\_\_c stone *n.* a band or belt of the imaginary celestial sphere divided into twelve equal parts, each named after and associated with a particular constellation; any similar system of division or categorization based on astrological or astronomical concepts

ANSWERS: 28. toilet, 29. tribe, 30. invention, 31. apostle, 32. interstice, 33. fancy, 34. zodiac



35. sus\_\_\_\_\_on of arms

*n.* the act of delaying or stopping something happening, operating, etc., for a period of time; a mechanical system of springs or shock absorbers connecting the wheels and axles

36. ab\_\_\_b energy

*v.* to take in a fluid or other substance gradually

ANSWERS: 35. suspension, 36. absorb

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sponge \_\_\_\_\_ water well.
  - v. to take in a fluid or other substance gradually
  
2. Emphasize the second \_\_\_\_\_ when pronouncing it.
  - n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
  
3. The pharmacist started to \_\_\_\_\_ medication to patients.
  - v. to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
  
4. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ acting in such an important role.
  - v. to want to do or have something; (noun) something that many people believe but that is false, or that does not exist; imagination or fantasy
  
5. He that would eat the kernel must \_\_\_\_\_ the nut.
  - v. to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking
  
6. The twelve \_\_\_\_\_ were Jesus' closest followers and were chosen to spread his teachings.
  - n. one of a group of early Christian leaders who were chosen and trained by Jesus to spread his teachings
  
7. Necessity is the mother of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

ANSWERS: 1. absorbs, 2. syllable, 3. dispense, 4. fancy, 5. crack, 6. apostles, 7. invention

8. There was a small \_\_\_\_\_ between the two buildings, just enough space to squeeze through.
- n.* a small space or gap between parts or objects, often within a larger structure; a break or interval between events or periods
9. This artwork is \_\_\_\_\_ of her work.
- adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ had distinctly defined gender roles.
- n.* a social group made up of members who live together, sharing the same language, culture, religion, etc., especially those who do not live in towns or cities
11. The machine had been damaged by rough \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the way in which a word or phrase is used in a language; the extent in which how much something is used
12. The car's front bumper cost fifteen hundred \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* the standard unit of money in the UK; the standard unit of weight equal to 16 ounces
13. She walked to the \_\_\_\_\_ to freshen up before the meeting.
- n.* a bowl-shaped plumbing fixture with a seat for defecation and urination, or a room or building containing one or more of this fixture
14. Her horoscope predicted a surprise encounter with a stranger, which aligned with her \_\_\_\_\_ sign.
- n.* a band or belt of the imaginary celestial sphere divided into twelve equal parts, each named after and associated with a particular constellation; any similar system of division or categorization based on astrological or astronomical concepts

ANSWERS: 8. interstice, 9. typical, 10. tribe, 11. usage, 12. pounds, 13. toilet, 14. zodiac

15. We largely \_\_\_\_\_ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

- v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

16. The court ordered a long-term \_\_\_\_\_ of business.

- n.* the act of delaying or stopping something happening, operating, etc., for a period of time; a mechanical system of springs or shock absorbers connecting the wheels and axles

17. The price of the item was reduced \_\_\_\_\_ after the sale.

- adj.* three times as great or as many

18. The \_\_\_\_\_ shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

- n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

ANSWERS: 15. recycle, 16. suspension, 17. threefold, 18. blacksmith