

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*David Binder: The arts festival revolution | TED Talk*  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_binder\\_the\\_arts\\_festival\\_revolution](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_binder_the_arts_festival_revolution)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

## Session 1: Word List

- lure** *v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something  
*synonym*: tempt, entice, attract  
(1) **lure** prey, (2) **lure** foreign investment  
The salesperson used a special offer to **lure** customers into buying the product.
- autobiographical** *adj.* relating to or based on the experiences, thoughts, or life story of oneself; about one's own life history or personal narrative  
*synonym*: self-written, self-told, personal  
(1) **autobiographical** narrative, (2) **autobiographical** memory  
The author wrote an **autobiographical** novel about growing up in a small town.
- commotion** *n.* a state of confused and noisy disturbance  
*synonym*: disturbance, fuss, uproar  
(1) a few minutes of **commotion**, (2) make **commotion**  
The **commotion** in the classroom made it hard for the teacher to teach.
- exuberant** *adj.* full of energy, enthusiasm, or excitement; lively, animated, or unrestrained in behavior or expression; characterized by abundant growth or profuse production

*synonym* : joyful, elated, ebullient

(1) **exuberant** performance, (2) **exuberant** personality

The young couple's **exuberant** energy was infectious, and everyone around them was smiling.

## amaze

*v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

*synonym* : astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

## rubble

*n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

*synonym* : debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

## seminal

*adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system

*synonym* : influential, groundbreaking, original

(1) **seminal** research, (2) **seminal** duct

The book was a **seminal** work in psychology, influencing generations of researchers.

## monumental

*adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

*synonym* : massive, awesome, enormous

(1) **monumental** task, (2) **monumental** sculpture

Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's **monumental** contributions to physics.

## passee

*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

*synonym* : outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passe** entertainment, (2) **passe** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passe** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

## protagonist

*n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

*synonym*: hero, central figure, leading character

(1) **protagonist** of drama, (2) play a **protagonist**

The **protagonist's** triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.

## spectator

*n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

*synonym*: onlooker, observer, viewer

(1) mass **spectator** sport, (2) **spectator** seat

She enjoyed watching the game as a **spectator**.

## outdo

*v.* to do better than someone; to surpass

*synonym*: excel, surpass, outshine

(1) **outdo** him in trickery, (2) **outdo** the competition

He tried to **outdo** his rival by breaking the world record.

## immerse

*v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

*synonym*: dip, inundate, submerge

(1) **immerse** the cloth in the dye, (2) completely **immerse** the ingredient

He **immersed** himself in his research.

## germ

*n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

*synonym*: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in

flocks.

## anew

*adv.* in a new or different way

*synonym* : again, once more, fresh

(1) arm **anew**, (2) review **anew**

He decided to start **anew** and leave his old life behind.

## 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.

## overlook

*v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

*synonym* : disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

## intellect

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

*synonym* : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

## commuter

*n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car

*synonym* : traveler, passenger

(1) **commuter** shuttle, (2) daily **commuter**

The **commuter** train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.

## 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.

## sultan

*n.* a king or ruler of an Islamic country or state, particularly in the Middle East; a title of respect for a Muslim ruler or leader

*synonym* : emperor, monarch, king

(1) the **sultan's** throne, (2) Ottoman **sultan**

The **sultan's** royal guard is highly skilled and fiercely loyal to him.

## standstill

*n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources

*synonym* : halt, deadlock, impasse

(1) transportation **standstill**, (2) economic **standstill**

The traffic accident caused a **standstill** on the highway for several hours.

## reclamation

*n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away

*synonym* : recovery, reutilization, restoration

(1) **reclamation** district, (2) coastal **reclamation**

The **reclamation** of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.

## 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.

## well-being

*n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

*synonym* : health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**

We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

**sparkle**

v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

*synonym*: shine, glimmer, twinkle

(1) **sparkle** like a gem, (2) **sparkle** from receiving light

The diamond **sparkled** in the sunlight.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. l\_\_e foreign investment  
*v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
2. am\_\_e and entertain visitors  
*v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
3. pa\_\_e trend  
*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
4. the su\_\_\_n's throne  
*n.* a king or ruler of an Islamic country or state, particularly in the Middle East; a title of respect for a Muslim ruler or leader
5. sp\_\_\_\_\_or seat  
*n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
6. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark  
*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. pro\_\_\_\_\_st of drama  
*n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
8. se\_\_\_\_\_l research  
*adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system
9. the wel\_\_\_\_\_ng of a nation  
*n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

ANSWERS: 1. lure, 2. amaze, 3. passe, 4. sultan, 5. spectator, 6. opportune, 7. protagonist, 8. seminal, 9. well-being

10. human in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
11. completely im\_\_\_\_\_e the ingredient *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
12. fl\_\_g a door open forcefully *v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry
13. 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
14. antibiotic-resistant g\_\_m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
15. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
16. enrich my in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
17. ou\_\_o him in trickery *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
18. Ottoman su\_\_\_n *n.* a king or ruler of an Islamic country or state, particularly in the Middle East; a title of respect for a Muslim ruler or leader

ANSWERS: 10. intellect, 11. immerse, 12. fling, 13. puppet, 14. germ, 15. opportune, 16. intellect, 17. outdo, 18. sultan



19. ex\_\_\_\_\_nt performance *adj.* full of energy, enthusiasm, or excitement; lively, animated, or unrestrained in behavior or expression; characterized by abundant growth or profuse production
20. a sense of wel\_\_\_\_\_ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
21. im\_\_\_\_\_e the cloth in the dye *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
22. transportation sta\_\_\_\_\_ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
23. rec\_\_\_\_\_on district *n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
24. daily co\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
25. fl\_\_g a stream of abuse *v.* to throw or push something or someone with force or recklessness, especially because you are angry
26. 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

ANSWERS: 19. exuberant, 20. well-being, 21. immerse, 22. standstill, 23. reclamation, 24. commuter, 25. fling, 26. puppet

27. ru\_\_\_e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
28. ov\_\_\_\_\_ok that fact *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
29. pa\_\_e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
30. co\_\_\_\_\_er shuttle *n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
31. ou\_\_o the competition *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
32. arm a\_\_w *adv.* in a new or different way
33. review a\_\_w *adv.* in a new or different way
34. sp\_\_\_\_\_e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
35. make co\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* a state of confused and noisy disturbance
36. mon\_\_\_\_\_al task *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
37. l\_\_e prey *v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
38. sp\_\_\_\_\_e like a gem *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

ANSWERS: 27. rubble, 28. overlook, 29. passe, 30. commuter, 31. outdo, 32. anew, 33. anew, 34. sparkle, 35. commotion, 36. monumental, 37. lure, 38. sparkle

39. mon\_\_\_\_\_al sculpture *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
40. a g\_\_m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
41. economic sta\_\_\_\_\_ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
42. am\_\_e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
43. ov\_\_\_\_\_ok a street *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
44. play a pro\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
45. mass sp\_\_\_\_\_or sport *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
46. ex\_\_\_\_\_nt personality *adj.* full of energy, enthusiasm, or excitement; lively, animated, or unrestrained in behavior or expression; characterized by abundant growth or profuse production
47. clear away ru\_\_\_e *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

ANSWERS: 39. monumental, 40. germ, 41. standstill, 42. amaze, 43. overlook, 44. protagonist, 45. spectator, 46. exuberant, 47. rubble

48. se\_\_\_\_l duct *adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system
49. aut\_\_\_\_\_cal narrative *adj.* relating to or based on the experiences, thoughts, or life story of oneself; about one's own life history or personal narrative
50. a few minutes of co\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* a state of confused and noisy disturbance
51. aut\_\_\_\_\_cal memory *adj.* relating to or based on the experiences, thoughts, or life story of oneself; about one's own life history or personal narrative
52. coastal rec\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away

ANSWERS: 48. seminal, 49. autobiographical, 50. commotion, 51. autobiographical, 52. reclamation

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We are responsible for the care and \_\_\_\_\_ of all our employees.  
*n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
  
2. The diamond \_\_\_\_\_ in the sunlight.  
*v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
  
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.  
*n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
  
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself in his research.  
*v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
  
5. The salesperson used a special offer to \_\_\_\_\_ customers into buying the product.  
*v.* to tempt or persuade someone to do something
  
6. The young couple's \_\_\_\_\_ energy was infectious, and everyone around them was smiling.  
*adj.* full of energy, enthusiasm, or excitement; lively, animated, or unrestrained in behavior or expression; characterized by abundant growth or profuse production
  
7. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered \_\_\_\_\_ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.  
*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

ANSWERS: 1. well-being, 2. sparkled, 3. protagonist's, 4. immersed, 5. lure, 6. exuberant, 7. passe

8. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his rival by breaking the world record.

*v.* to do better than someone; to surpass

9. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.

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

10. The author wrote an \_\_\_\_\_ novel about growing up in a small town.

*adj.* relating to or based on the experiences, thoughts, or life story of oneself; about one's own life history or personal narrative

11. The magician's tricks \_\_\_\_\_ the audience.

*v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

12. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

13. 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

14. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

15. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ an opportunity for great success.

*v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

ANSWERS: 8. outdo, 9. opportune, 10. autobiographical, 11. amazed, 12. rubble, 13. fling, 14. intellect, 15. overlook

16. The \_\_\_\_\_ royal guard is highly skilled and fiercely loyal to him.  
*n.* a king or ruler of an Islamic country or state, particularly in the Middle East; a title of respect for a Muslim ruler or leader
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.  
*n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the wetlands allowed for the restoration of the natural ecosystem.  
*n.* the process of restoring or reclaiming something, particularly land or resources that have been damaged or depleted; the act of obtaining or recovering something that was lost or taken away
19. He decided to start \_\_\_\_\_ and leave his old life behind.  
*adv.* in a new or different way
20. 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
21. The traffic accident caused a \_\_\_\_\_ on the highway for several hours.  
*n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
22. She enjoyed watching the game as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom made it hard for the teacher to teach.  
*n.* a state of confused and noisy disturbance

ANSWERS: 16. sultan's, 17. commuter, 18. reclamation, 19. anew, 20. puppet, 21. standstill, 22. spectator, 23. commotion

24. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

*n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

25. The book was a \_\_\_\_\_ work in psychology, influencing generations of researchers.

*adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system

26. Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's \_\_\_\_\_ contributions to physics.

*adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

ANSWERS: 24. germ, 25. seminal, 26. monumental