

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kevin Slavin: How algorithms shape our world | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_slavin_how_algorithms_shape_our_world

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

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym: alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts

The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

vicissitude

n. a change or variation in circumstances or fortune, often characterized by ups and downs, fluctuations, or unexpected shifts; a succession of changing or alternating events or conditions

synonym: change, fluctuation, variation

(1) navigate the **vicissitudes**, (2) overcome **vicissitudes**

After many **vicissitudes**, she finally achieved her dream of becoming a successful author.

precipice

n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face

synonym: cliff, drop, brink

(1) leap off a **precipice**, (2) mural **precipice**

The hiker stood at the edge of the **precipice**, taking in the breathtaking view.

topography

n. the arrangement and physical features of a particular area or region, including its natural and artificial elements and their relative positions and elevations; the study or description of this arrangement and these features

synonym: terrain, landscape, geography

(1) **topography** map, (2) detailed **topography**

The **topography** of the region is rugged, with many hills and valleys.

rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

synonym: reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

sensibility

n. mental responsiveness and awareness toward something

synonym: emotion, sense, aesthesia

(1) cultural **sensibility**, (2) design **sensibility**

Everything he writes shows the breadth of his **sensibility**.

ossify

v. to become hardened like bone; to become rigid, inflexible, or resistant to change

synonym: harden, petrify, solidify

(1) **ossify** tissue, (2) **ossify** into a rigid structure

After a certain age, our bones begin to **ossify** and become more brittle.

transatlantic

adj. relating to or situated on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, especially about travel communication or cultural exchange between Europe and North America

synonym: intercontinental, across-the-pond

(1) **transatlantic** cable, (2) **transatlantic** partnership

Transatlantic cooperation is important for global security and

stability.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

stealth

n. the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety

synonym: sneakiness, secrecy, furtiveness

(1) **stealth** technology, (2) **stealth** bomber

The thief moved with **stealth**, careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.

negate

v. to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something

synonym: refuse, nullify, annul

(1) **negate** the possibility, (2) **negate** the existing system

Drinking may **negate** the beneficial effects of the drug.

aeronautics

n. the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft

synonym: aviation, aerospace, flying

(1) **aeronautics** industry, (2) **aeronautics** research

He studied **aeronautics** in college and worked as an aerospace engineer.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

proctor

n. a person who supervises or monitors an examination, often ensuring compliance with regulations and preventing cheating; a person who oversees the conduct

of others, particularly in an educational or professional setting

synonym : supervisor, monitor, examiner

(1) university **proctor**, (2) online **proctor**

The **proctor** of the exam ensured that all students followed the rules.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym : bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune

Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

poke

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

synonym : prod, jab, push

(1) **poke** around the desk, (2) **poke** a fire

They **poked** fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym : stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym : dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym : legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

illegible

adj. unable to be read or deciphered; unclear or indistinctly written; not legible due to poor handwriting, printing, or condition

synonym : unreadable, indecipherable

(1) **illegible** signature, (2) **illegible** document

The handwriting on the note was so **illegible** that I couldn't read it.

carnival

n. a public enjoyment and celebration, usually held in the street, featuring music, dancing, and various forms of entertainment

synonym : fair, festival, celebration

(1) **carnival** parade, (2) **carnival** atmosphere

The traveling **carnival** is coming to our town next week.

twilight

n. the soft, diffused light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon, either from sunrise to sunrise or sunset to sunset

synonym : dusk, sunset, gloaming

(1) **twilight** sky, (2) **twilight** of an era

The sky was a beautiful pink and orange color at **twilight**.

dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym : reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

pragmatic

adj. practical rather than idealistic

synonym : practical, realistic, down-to-earth

(1) **pragmatic** approach, (2) **pragmatic** politics

He was a **pragmatic** leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular

outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

quantifiable

adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms

synonym : measurable, calculable

(1) non- **quantifiable** risk, (2) **quantifiable** results

The impact of the new policy will be **quantifiable** through measurable data.

awry

adv. in a wrong or crooked position; out of order; amiss

synonym : amiss, askew, incorrect

(1) **awry** plan, (2) **awry** hair

The plans for the surprise party went **awry** when the cake was ruined.

dialect

n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

synonym : accent, language, vernacular

(1) a local **dialect**, (2) minority **dialect**

The **dialect** spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

microsecond

n. one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second

(1) at a **microsecond** rate, (2) 10 millimeters per **microsecond**

This process all happens within a **microsecond**.

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym : high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed

skyscraper

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

polo

n. a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets

(1) **polo** shirt, (2) **polo** championship

I watched a thrilling **polo** match at the club over the weekend.

trench

n. a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water

synonym: aqueduct, ditch, channel

(1) deep-sea **trench**, (2) **trench** excavator

A **trench** was being dug alongside the road by workers.

dynamite

n. a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

synonym: explosives, blasting powder, TNT

(1) **dynamite-powered** engine, (2) **dynamite** fishing

The sound of the **dynamite** explosion could be heard for miles.

entanglement

n. involvement in a complicated or difficult situation; a tangled mass

synonym: snarl, tangle, knot

(1) **entanglement** in conflict, (2) romantic **entanglement**

The **entanglement** of the fishing net was making it difficult for the whales to swim.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is

reflected in its products and customer support.

terraform

v. to transform the environment or land of a planet, moon, or other celestial body to make it habitable for life, typically by introducing or modifying the atmosphere, temperature, or topography

(1) **terraform** Mars, (2) **terraform** the planet

The company plans to **terraform** the barren land into a lush green park.

prophecy

n. a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader

synonym: prediction, foretelling, divination

(1) **prophecy** fulfillment, (2) **prophecy** of doom

The fortune teller's **prophecy** that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.

uneasy

adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

synonym: anxious, troubled, nervous

(1) have **uneasy** eyes, (2) **uneasy** relationship

He was **uneasy** about the situation and didn't know what to do.

Session 2: Spelling

1. tra_____tic cable *adj.* relating to or situated on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, especially about travel communication or cultural exchange between Europe and North America
2. a local di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
3. cultural sen_____ty *n.* mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
4. deep-sea tr____h *n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water
5. design sen_____ty *n.* mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
6. mural pr_____ce *n.* a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face
7. po__t the premise *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
8. minority di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

ANSWERS: 1. transatlantic, 2. dialect, 3. sensibility, 4. trench, 5. sensibility, 6. precipice, 7. posit, 8. dialect

17. pr____cy fulfillment *n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
18. re____e education policy *v.* to change the form or structure of something
19. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
20. non-qua_____ble risk *adj.* able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
21. un____y relationship *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
22. ca____al parade *n.* a public enjoyment and celebration, usually held in the street, featuring music, dancing, and various forms of entertainment
23. ne____e the possibility *v.* to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
24. pr_____ic politics *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
25. tw____ht sky *n.* the soft, diffused light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon, either from sunrise to sunrise or sunset to sunset
26. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
27. tr____h excavator *n.* a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water

ANSWERS: 17. prophecy, 18. reshape, 19. numb, 20. quantifiable, 21. uneasy, 22. carnival, 23. negate, 24. pragmatic, 25. twilight, 26. writ, 27. trench

28. top_____hy map *n.* the arrangement and physical features of a particular area or region, including its natural and artificial elements and their relative positions and elevations; the study or description of this arrangement and these features
29. a__y plan *adv.* in a wrong or crooked position; out of order; amiss
30. re_____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
31. at a mic_____nd rate *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
32. il_____le document *adj.* unable to be read or deciphered; unclear or indistinctly written; not legible due to poor handwriting, printing, or condition
33. pr_____ic approach *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
34. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
35. a__y hair *adv.* in a wrong or crooked position; out of order; amiss
36. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
37. p__o shirt *n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
38. qua_____ble results *adj.* able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
39. dy_____te-powered engine *n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

ANSWERS: 28. topography, 29. awry, 30. rethink, 31. microsecond, 32. illegible, 33. pragmatic, 34. writ, 35. awry, 36. physicist, 37. polo, 38. quantifiable, 39. dynamite

40. ca____al atmosphere *n.* a public enjoyment and celebration, usually held in the street, featuring music, dancing, and various forms of entertainment
41. romantic ent_____ent *n.* involvement in a complicated or difficult situation; a tangled mass
42. p__o championship *n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
43. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
44. di____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
45. navigate the vic_____des *n.* a change or variation in circumstances or fortune, often characterized by ups and downs, fluctuations, or unexpected shifts; a succession of changing or alternating events or conditions
46. hulking di____ur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
47. ne___e the existing system *v.* to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
48. dy____te fishing *n.* a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

ANSWERS: 40. carnival, 41. entanglement, 42. polo, 43. sew, 44. dinosaur, 45. vicissitude, 46. dinosaur, 47. negate, 48. dynamite

49. have un___y eyes *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
50. aer_____cs industry *n.* the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft
51. tw_____ht of an era *n.* the soft, diffused light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon, either from sunrise to sunrise or sunset to sunset
52. leap off a pr_____ce *n.* a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face
53. ga___e \$100 on the race *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
54. pr_____cy of doom *n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
55. p__e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
56. detailed top_____hy *n.* the arrangement and physical features of a particular area or region, including its natural and artificial elements and their relative positions and elevations; the study or description of this arrangement and these features
57. ent_____ent in conflict *n.* involvement in a complicated or difficult situation; a tangled mass
58. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 49. uneasy, 50. aeronautics, 51. twilight, 52. precipice, 53. gamble, 54. prophecy, 55. poke, 56. topography, 57. entanglement, 58. determinant

59. st____h bomber *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
60. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
61. os____y tissue *v.* to become hardened like bone; to become rigid, inflexible, or resistant to change
62. university pr____r *n.* a person who supervises or monitors an examination, often ensuring compliance with regulations and preventing cheating; a person who oversees the conduct of others, particularly in an educational or professional setting
63. os____y into a rigid structure *v.* to become hardened like bone; to become rigid, inflexible, or resistant to change
64. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
65. ga____e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
66. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
67. re____k the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

ANSWERS: 59. stealth, 60. determinant, 61. ossify, 62. proctor, 63. ossify, 64. motto, 65. gamble, 66. numb, 67. rethink

68. steel-framed sky_____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
69. aer_____cs research *n.* the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft
70. te_____rm the planet *v.* to transform the environment or land of a planet, moon, or other celestial body to make it habitable for life, typically by introducing or modifying the atmosphere, temperature, or topography
71. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
72. il_____le signature *adj.* unable to be read or deciphered; unclear or indistinctly written; not legible due to poor handwriting, printing, or condition
73. p__e around the desk *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
74. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
75. 10 millimeters per mic_____nd *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
76. st_____h technology *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety

ANSWERS: 68. skyscraper, 69. aeronautics, 70. terraform, 71. posit, 72. illegible, 73. poke, 74. sew, 75. microsecond, 76. stealth

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
 - n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

2. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
 - n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

3. I watched a thrilling _____ match at the club over the weekend.
 - n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets

4. After a certain age, our bones begin to _____ and become more brittle.
 - v.* to become hardened like bone; to become rigid, inflexible, or resistant to change

5. The _____ of the exam ensured that all students followed the rules.
 - n.* a person who supervises or monitors an examination, often ensuring compliance with regulations and preventing cheating; a person who oversees the conduct of others, particularly in an educational or professional setting

6. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
 - n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

7. The fortune teller's _____ that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.
 - n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader

ANSWERS: 1. determinant, 2. motto, 3. polo, 4. ossify, 5. proctor, 6. physicist, 7. prophecy

8. My left arm became _____.

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

9. The sound of the _____ explosion could be heard for miles.

n. a powerful explosive made from nitroglycerin, typically used in construction and mining; something that causes strong, sudden reactions or changes

10. My mother taught me how to _____.

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

11. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

12. The traveling _____ is coming to our town next week.

n. a public enjoyment and celebration, usually held in the street, featuring music, dancing, and various forms of entertainment

13. The plans for the surprise party went _____ when the cake was ruined.

adv. in a wrong or crooked position; out of order; amiss

14. They _____ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

15. This process all happens within a _____.

n. one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second

16. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

ANSWERS: 8. numb, 9. dynamite, 10. sew, 11. skyscraper, 12. carnival, 13. awry, 14. poked, 15. microsecond, 16. posit

17. Drinking may _____ the beneficial effects of the drug.
v. to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
18. The hiker stood at the edge of the _____ taking in the breathtaking view.
n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face
19. _____ cooperation is important for global security and stability.
adj. relating to or situated on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, especially about travel communication or cultural exchange between Europe and North America
20. He studied _____ in college and worked as an aerospace engineer.
n. the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft
21. Everything he writes shows the breadth of his _____.
n. mental responsiveness and awareness toward something
22. A _____ was being dug alongside the road by workers.
n. a long, deep ditch made in the ground, usually parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone; a long ditch built in the ground for carrying away water
23. The company plans to _____ the barren land into a lush green park.
v. to transform the environment or land of a planet, moon, or other celestial body to make it habitable for life, typically by introducing or modifying the atmosphere, temperature, or topography
24. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.
v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

ANSWERS: 17. negate, 18. precipice, 19. Transatlantic, 20. aeronautics, 21. sensibility, 22. trench, 23. terraform, 24. rethink

25. The impact of the new policy will be _____ through measurable data.
adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
26. After many _____ she finally achieved her dream of becoming a successful author.
n. a change or variation in circumstances or fortune, often characterized by ups and downs, fluctuations, or unexpected shifts; a succession of changing or alternating events or conditions
27. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
28. The _____ of the region is rugged, with many hills and valleys.
n. the arrangement and physical features of a particular area or region, including its natural and artificial elements and their relative positions and elevations; the study or description of this arrangement and these features
29. He was a _____ leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.
adj. practical rather than idealistic
30. The _____ of the fishing net was making it difficult for the whales to swim.
n. involvement in a complicated or difficult situation; a tangled mass
31. The sky was a beautiful pink and orange color at _____.
n. the soft, diffused light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon, either from sunrise to sunrise or sunset to sunset

ANSWERS: 25. quantifiable, 26. vicissitudes, 27. gamble, 28. topography, 29. pragmatic, 30. entanglement, 31. twilight

32. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
33. The _____ spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.
n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
34. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
v. to change the form or structure of something
35. The handwriting on the note was so _____ that I couldn't read it.
adj. unable to be read or deciphered; unclear or indistinctly written; not legible due to poor handwriting, printing, or condition
36. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
37. The thief moved with _____ careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.
n. the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
38. He was _____ about the situation and didn't know what to do.
adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

ANSWERS: 32. writ, 33. dialect, 34. reshaped, 35. illegible, 36. dinosaur, 37. stealth, 38. uneasy