

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Luis von Ahn: Massive-scale online collaboration |*

*TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/luis\\_von\\_ahn\\_massive\\_scale\\_online\\_collaboration](https://www.ted.com/talks/luis_von_ahn_massive_scale_online_collaboration)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### distort

*v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

*synonym*: fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

### captcha

*n.* a program or security feature used to ensure that a human, rather than a computer program, is accessing a website by requiring the user to perform a task or input specific information

*synonym*: verification, security test

(1) the **captcha** on the website, (2) **captcha** verification

To secure your website from spam and bot traffic, it's recommended to use a **captcha** system.

### humming

*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

*synonym*: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

## scalp

*n.* the skin that covers the top of a person's head, together with the hair growing on it; also, the part of the body that is most vulnerable to an attack

*synonym* : hair cover, pelt, epidermis

(1) **scalp** massage, (2) **scalp** condition

I have an itchy **scalp** and need to switch to a different shampoo.

## 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.

## humongous

*adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big

*synonym* : gigantic, enormous, colossal

(1) **humongous** appetite, (2) **humongous** amount

The new office building was **humongous** and could fit hundreds of employees comfortably.

## authenticate

*v.* to confirm or verify the validity or authenticity of something; to prove or establish that something is genuine or true

*synonym* : confirm, validate, verify

(1) **authenticate** documents, (2) **authenticate** software license

The security system requires users to **authenticate** their identity before gaining access.

## kindle

*v.* to start a fire; to light

*synonym* : ignite, light, start

(1) **kindle** strife, (2) **kindle** a passion

He **kindled** a fire in the fireplace to warm the room.

## decipher

*v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

*synonym* : interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message  
He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

## 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.

## Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

*synonym*: Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**  
**Christmas** is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## meme

n. a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online

*synonym*: buzzword, trend

(1) pronounce **meme**, (2) religious **meme**  
This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet **meme**.

## screenshot

n. a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem

*synonym*: capture, screen dump

(1) **screenshot** function, (2) send a **screenshot**  
I took a **screenshot** of the error message to show the tech support team.

## clench

v. to close tightly or grip firmly; to contract or stiffen, especially as in response to stress or pain; to tighten or

compress

*synonym* : grasp, clasp, tighten

(1) **clench** teeth, (2) **clench** muscles

He **clenched** his fist in anger when he heard the bad news.

## paleontology

*n.* the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth

*synonym* : fossilology, prehistoric biology

(1) vertebrate **paleontology**, (2) **paleontology** museum

My interest in **paleontology** research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.

## snoop

*v.* to investigate or pry into something in a stealthy or nosy manner; to snoop through someone else's possessions or property

*synonym* : spy, pry, eavesdrop

(1) **snoop** around the house, (2) **snoop** for information

The nosy neighbor liked to **snoop** around and eavesdrop on other people's conversations.

## 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**.

## 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.

## excite

*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

*synonym* : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

## preamble

*n.* an introductory statement or passage that precedes and sets the stage for a longer piece of writing, such as a constitution, law, or document; a preliminary explanation or introduction to something larger

*synonym*: introduction, foreword, prologue

(1) legal **preamble**, (2) historical **preamble**

The **preamble** of the Constitution outlines the goals and principles of the country.

## vomit

*v.* to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth

*synonym*: puke, throw up, spew

(1) **vomit** abuse, (2) **vomit** after ingesting

She felt sick and had to run to the bathroom to **vomit**.

## Wikipedia

*n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

*synonym*: online encyclopedia, webpedia

(1) **Wikipedia** entry, (2) **Wikipedia** article

Not all teachers accept citing **Wikipedia** as a valid source for academic papers.

## outsource

*v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure

*synonym*: delegate, contract out, farm out

(1) **outsource** a non-core function, (2) **outsource** to India

The company decided to **outsource** its IT services to a third-party provider.

## hurdle

*n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome

*synonym*: obstacle, barrier, challenge

(1) overcome **hurdles**, (2) **hurdle** race

The company faced several **hurdles** in the development of its new product.

## 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.

## monetize

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

*synonym*: mint, make profit

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

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

## Session 2: Spelling

1. pronounce m\_\_e *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
2. send a scr\_\_\_\_\_ot *n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
3. vertebrate pal\_\_\_\_\_ogy *n.* the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
4. ki\_\_\_e a passion *v.* to start a fire; to light
5. p\_\_e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
6. 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
7. legal pr\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* an introductory statement or passage that precedes and sets the stage for a longer piece of writing, such as a constitution, law, or document; a preliminary explanation or introduction to something larger

ANSWERS: 1. meme, 2. screenshot, 3. paleontology, 4. kindle, 5. poke, 6. germ, 7. preamble

8. cl\_\_\_h muscles                      *v.* to close tightly or grip firmly; to contract or stiffen, especially as in response to stress or pain; to tighten or compress
9. n\_\_b with cold                      *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
10. the ca\_\_\_\_\_a on the website                      *n.* a program or security feature used to ensure that a human, rather than a computer program, is accessing a website by requiring the user to perform a task or input specific information
11. sc\_\_p massage                      *n.* the skin that covers the top of a person's head, together with the hair growing on it; also, the part of the body that is most vulnerable to an attack
12. cl\_\_\_h teeth                      *v.* to close tightly or grip firmly; to contract or stiffen, especially as in response to stress or pain; to tighten or compress
13. sn\_\_p around the house                      *v.* to investigate or pry into something in a stealthy or nosy manner; to snoop through someone else's possessions or property
14. issue a w\_\_t                      *n.* a written legal order or command
15. scr\_\_\_\_\_ot function                      *n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
16. religious m\_\_e                      *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online

ANSWERS: 8. clench, 9. numb, 10. captcha, 11. scalp, 12. clench, 13. snoop, 14.



writ, 15. screenshot, 16. meme

17. mo\_\_\_\_ze my skill                    *v.*    to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
18. pal\_\_\_\_\_\_ogy museum                *n.*    the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
19. vo\_\_t after ingesting                *v.*    to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth
20. hu\_\_\_\_g bird                        *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
21. before Ch\_\_\_\_t                        *n.*    the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
22. Wi\_\_\_\_ia entry                        *n.*    an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
23. company mo\_\_o                        *n.*    a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
24. sc\_\_p condition                        *n.*    the skin that covers the top of a person's head, together with the hair growing on it; also, the part of the body that is most vulnerable to an attack
25. ex\_\_\_e the crowd                        *v.*    to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
26. teaching of Ch\_\_\_\_t                    *n.*    the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

ANSWERS: 17. monetize, 18. paleontology, 19. vomit, 20. humming, 21. Christ, 22. Wikipedia, 23. motto, 24. scalp, 25. excite, 26. Christ

27. p\_\_e around the desk      *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
28. di\_\_\_\_t the facts      *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
29. ou\_\_\_\_ce a non-core function      *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
30. ca\_\_\_\_a verification      *n.* a program or security feature used to ensure that a human, rather than a computer program, is accessing a website by requiring the user to perform a task or input specific information
31. vo\_\_t abuse      *v.* to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth
32. overcome hu\_\_\_es      *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
33. mo\_\_\_\_ze nickel      *v.* to earn money from something, such as an asset, business, etc.; to coin into money
34. the mo\_\_o for safe traffic      *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
35. historical pr\_\_\_\_le      *n.* an introductory statement or passage that precedes and sets the stage for a longer piece of writing, such as a constitution, law, or document; a preliminary explanation or introduction to something larger

ANSWERS: 27. poke, 28. distort, 29. outsource, 30. captcha, 31. vomit, 32. hurdle, 33. monetize, 34. motto, 35. preamble

36. ou\_\_\_\_\_ce to India      *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
37. de\_\_\_\_\_er code      *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
38. aut\_\_\_\_\_ate documents      *v.* to confirm or verify the validity or authenticity of something; to prove or establish that something is genuine or true
39. 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
40. Wi\_\_\_\_\_ia article      *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
41. ex\_\_\_e rebellion      *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
42. hu\_\_\_e race      *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
43. hu\_\_\_\_\_g sound      *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
44. di\_\_\_\_\_t the economy      *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
45. sn\_\_p for information      *v.* to investigate or pry into something in a stealthy or nosy manner; to snoop through someone else's possessions or property

ANSWERS: 36. outsource, 37. decipher, 38. authenticate, 39. germ, 40. Wikipedia, 41. excite, 42. hurdle, 43. humming, 44. distort, 45. snoop

46. hu\_\_\_\_\_us appetite *adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big
47. a w\_\_t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
48. ki\_\_\_e strife *v.* to start a fire; to light
49. a n\_\_b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
50. aut\_\_\_\_\_ate software license *v.* to confirm or verify the validity or authenticity of something; to prove or establish that something is genuine or true
51. hu\_\_\_\_\_us amount *adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big
52. de\_\_\_\_\_er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

ANSWERS: 46. humongous, 47. writ, 48. kindle, 49. numb, 50. authenticate, 51. humongous, 52. decipher

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.  
*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
2. I took a \_\_\_\_\_ of the error message to show the tech support team.  
*n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
3. The nosy neighbor liked to \_\_\_\_\_ around and eavesdrop on other people's conversations.  
*v.* to investigate or pry into something in a stealthy or nosy manner; to snoop through someone else's possessions or property
4. The news of her promotion \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
5. He was served with a \_\_\_\_\_ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.  
*n.* a written legal order or command
6. To secure your website from spam and bot traffic, it's recommended to use a \_\_\_\_\_ system.  
*n.* a program or security feature used to ensure that a human, rather than a computer program, is accessing a website by requiring the user to perform a task or input specific information
7. Not all teachers accept citing \_\_\_\_\_ as a valid source for academic papers.  
*n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

ANSWERS: 1. humming, 2. screenshot, 3. snoop, 4. excited, 5. writ, 6. captcha, 7. Wikipedia

8. The company faced several \_\_\_\_\_ in the development of its new product.  
*n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
9. 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
10. This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
11. My left arm became \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.  
*n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
13. The new office building was \_\_\_\_\_ and could fit hundreds of employees comfortably.  
*adj.* extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big
14. She felt sick and had to run to the bathroom to \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth
15. My interest in \_\_\_\_\_ research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.  
*n.* the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth

ANSWERS: 8. hurdles, 9. motto, 10. meme, 11. numb, 12. Christmas, 13. humongous, 14. vomit, 15. paleontology

16. He explored ways to \_\_\_\_\_ his digital content.

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

17. 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

18. He spent hours trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the ancient text.

- v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

19. He \_\_\_\_\_ a fire in the fireplace to warm the room.

- v. to start a fire; to light

20. Economists contend that taxes \_\_\_\_\_ consumer behavior in general.

- v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

21. I have an itchy \_\_\_\_\_ and need to switch to a different shampoo.

- n. the skin that covers the top of a person's head, together with the hair growing on it; also, the part of the body that is most vulnerable to an attack

22. The company decided to \_\_\_\_\_ its IT services to a third-party provider.

- v. to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure

23. They \_\_\_\_\_ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

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

ANSWERS: 16. monetize, 17. germ, 18. decipher, 19. kindled, 20. distort, 21. scalp, 22. outsource, 23. poked



24. He \_\_\_\_\_ his fist in anger when he heard the bad news.
- v. to close tightly or grip firmly; to contract or stiffen, especially as in response to stress or pain; to tighten or compress
25. The security system requires users to \_\_\_\_\_ their identity before gaining access.
- v. to confirm or verify the validity or authenticity of something; to prove or establish that something is genuine or true
26. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution outlines the goals and principles of the country.
- n. an introductory statement or passage that precedes and sets the stage for a longer piece of writing, such as a constitution, law, or document; a preliminary explanation or introduction to something larger

ANSWERS: 24. clenched, 25. authenticate, 26. preamble