

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Caroline Casey: Looking past limits | TED Talk

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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### impair

*v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse

*synonym*: degrade, mar, deface

(1) **impair** my health, (2) **impair** insulin sensitivity

The accident made his vision **impaired**.

### ocular

*adj.* relating to the eyes or vision; visual; pertaining to or connected with the sense of sight

*synonym*: visual, optical, ophthalmic

(1) **ocular** examination, (2) **ocular** symptoms

After using the new **ocular** lens, the photographer took extremely sharp and detailed pictures.

### albino

*adj.* characterized by a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes, resulting in a pale or white appearance; lacking the usual coloration or pigmentation

*synonym*: pale, white, colorless

(1) **albino** rabbit, (2) **albino** gene

The zoo has an **albino** peacock, a rare and stunning sight.

### etch

*v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern

*synonym*: engrave, inscribe, carve

(1) **etch** a metal plate, (2) **etch** a design into wood  
He used a sharp tool to **etch** his initials onto the metal.

## **squint**

v. to look at something with half-closed eyes, especially when trying to see more clearly or in bright light; to consider or examine something with suspicion, doubt, or skepticism

*synonym*: squinch, peer, glare

(1) **squint** against the sun, (2) **squint** at the radar screen  
I had to **squint** my eyes to read the small print on the menu.

## **devastate**

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage  
*synonym*: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy  
Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

## **thump**

v. to strike or hit heavily or repeatedly, often with a dull, resonating sound; to pound or beat forcefully

*synonym*: beat, thud, pound

(1) **thump** on the back, (2) **thump** a blistering shot  
I heard someone **thump** on the door, and when I opened it, no one was there.

## **dogged**

*adj.* showing persistent determination or tenacity, often in the face of difficulty or opposition; steadfastly pursuing a goal or objective

*synonym*: tenacious, persevering, determined

(1) **dogged** loyalty, (2) **dogged** pursuit  
She faced numerous obstacles, but her **dogged** determination allowed her to overcome them all.

## **ram**

v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force

*synonym*: crash, collide, slam

(1) **ram** the door open, (2) **ram** into the ice

The car **rammed** into the wall, causing significant damage.

## archaeology

*n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**

She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

## 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.

## frightening

*adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

*synonym* : scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

## gent

*n.* a polite or formal term used to refer to a man, particularly one who is gentle or refined in manners or behavior; short for a gentleman

*synonym* : gentleman, fellow, guy

(1) **gent** clothing, (2) **gent** style

He was a true **gent**, always courteous and respectful to everyone he met.

## 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.

## choke

*v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

*synonym*: strangle, suffocate, clog

(1) **choke** with anger, (2) **choke** off the blood supply

The baby started to **choke** on a piece of apple.

## motorbike

*n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle

*synonym*: motorcycle, bike, two-wheeler

(1) **motorbike** ride, (2) stolen **motorbike**

She identified the **motorbike** thief using the CCTV footage.

## ache

*v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

*synonym*: hurt, throb, smart

(1) **ache** abominably, (2) **ache** all the time

I **ache** all over after running a marathon yesterday.

## lamppost

*n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps

*synonym*: streetlight, light post, pole light

(1) **lamppost** light, (2) hit a **lamppost**

The **lamppost** on the corner of the street has been out for a week, making it difficult to see at night.

## smashing

*adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

*synonym*: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

## snot

*n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing

*synonym* : mucus, phlegm, nasal discharge

(1) runny **snot**, (2) excess **snot** production

The child wiped away the sticky **snot** from his nose with a tissue.

## crumple

*v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

*synonym* : crinkle, crush, mash

(1) **crumple** paper, (2) **crumple** clothes

The car **crumpled** after colliding with the tree.

## woo

*v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

*synonym* : court, pursue, charm

(1) **woo** consumers, (2) **woo** voters with promises

He tried to **woo** her with his charm and wit.

## scoot

*v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device

*synonym* : glide, slide, scurry

(1) **scoot** out of my room, (2) **scoot** over

I have to **scoot** over to the next desk because there's not enough room for me to sit comfortably.

## pretension

*n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

*synonym* : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

**cataract**

*n.* a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision; a large waterfall

*synonym*: clouding, blurriness, waterfall

(1) the thunder of a **cataract**, (2) **cataract** lens

The older man had a **cataract** removed from his eye, which improved his vision significantly.

**chuck**

*v.* to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone

*synonym*: toss, throw, discard

(1) **chuck** the ball across the yard, (2) **chuck** my job

I will **chuck** these old shoes in the trash and buy a new pair.

**reframe**

*v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way

*synonym*: redefine, restructure, reposition

(1) **reframe** resource allocation, (2) **reframe** problem

The therapist tried to **reframe** his negative thoughts.

**petrify**

*v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding

*synonym*: fossilize, mineralize, calcify

(1) **petrify** with fear, (2) **petrify** into stone

The thought of public speaking will **petrify** her.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. oc\_\_\_r symptoms *adj.* relating to the eyes or vision; visual; pertaining to or connected with the sense of sight
2. th\_\_p on the back *v.* to strike or hit heavily or repeatedly, often with a dull, resonating sound; to pound or beat forcefully
3. a\_\_e abominably *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
4. 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
5. pre\_\_\_\_\_on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
6. w\_o voters with promises *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
7. g\_\_t style *n.* a polite or formal term used to refer to a man, particularly one who is gentle or refined in manners or behavior; short for a gentleman
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. ocular, 2. thump, 3. ache, 4. impersonate, 5. pretension, 6. woo, 7. gent, 8. impersonate

9. cast fri\_\_\_\_\_ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
10. ca\_\_\_\_\_ct lens *n.* a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision; a large waterfall
11. sc\_\_t over *v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device
12. al\_\_\_o gene *adj.* characterized by a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes, resulting in a pale or white appearance; lacking the usual coloration or pigmentation
13. de\_\_\_\_\_te an area *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
14. w\_o consumers *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
15. baseless pre\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
16. environmental det\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
17. excess s\_\_t production *n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing

ANSWERS: 9. frightening, 10. cataract, 11. scoot, 12. albino, 13. devastate, 14. woo, 15. pretension, 16. determinant, 17. snot



18. give sm\_\_\_\_\_ng results      *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
19. ch\_\_e with anger      *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
20. a sm\_\_\_\_\_ng blow      *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
21. la\_\_\_\_\_st light      *n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
22. im\_\_\_\_r my health      *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
23. ch\_\_e off the blood supply      *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
24. do\_\_\_\_d pursuit      *adj.* showing persistent determination or tenacity, often in the face of difficulty or opposition; steadfastly pursuing a goal or objective
25. r\_m the door open      *v.* to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
26. e\_\_h a design into wood      *v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
27. stolen mo\_\_\_\_\_ke      *n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle

ANSWERS: 18. smashing, 19. choke, 20. smashing, 21. lamppost, 22. impair, 23. choke, 24. dogged, 25. ram, 26. etch, 27. motorbike

28. sc\_\_t out of my room      *v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device
29. runny s\_\_t      *n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing
30. mo\_\_\_\_\_ke ride      *n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle
31. e\_\_h a metal plate      *v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
32. prehistoric arc\_\_\_\_\_gy      *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
33. ch\_\_k the ball across the yard      *v.* to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone
34. the thunder of a ca\_\_\_\_\_ct      *n.* a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision; a large waterfall
35. cr\_\_\_\_\_e clothes      *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
36. im\_\_\_r insulin sensitivity      *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
37. th\_\_p a blistering shot      *v.* to strike or hit heavily or repeatedly, often with a dull, resonating sound; to pound or beat forcefully

ANSWERS: 28. scoot, 29. snot, 30. motorbike, 31. etch, 32. archaeology, 33. chuck, 34. cataract, 35. crumple, 36. impair, 37. thump

38. g\_\_t clothing *n.* a polite or formal term used to refer to a man, particularly one who is gentle or refined in manners or behavior; short for a gentleman
39. ch\_\_k my job *v.* to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone
40. pe\_\_\_\_y into stone *v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
41. re\_\_\_\_e problem *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
42. sq\_\_t at the radar screen *v.* to look at something with half-closed eyes, especially when trying to see more clearly or in bright light; to consider or examine something with suspicion, doubt, or skepticism
43. al\_\_\_o rabbit *adj.* characterized by a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes, resulting in a pale or white appearance; lacking the usual coloration or pigmentation
44. r\_m into the ice *v.* to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
45. sq\_\_t against the sun *v.* to look at something with half-closed eyes, especially when trying to see more clearly or in bright light; to consider or examine something with suspicion, doubt, or skepticism
46. fri\_\_\_\_\_ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

ANSWERS: 38. gent, 39. chuck, 40. petrify, 41. reframe, 42. squint, 43. albino, 44. ram, 45. squint, 46. frightening

47. do\_\_\_d loyalty *adj.* showing persistent determination or tenacity, often in the face of difficulty or opposition; steadfastly pursuing a goal or objective
48. hit a la\_\_\_\_st *n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
49. cr\_\_\_\_e paper *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
50. de\_\_\_\_\_te the economy *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
51. oc\_\_\_r examination *adj.* relating to the eyes or vision; visual; pertaining to or connected with the sense of sight
52. re\_\_\_\_e resource allocation *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
53. 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
54. the institute of arc\_\_\_\_\_gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
55. pe\_\_\_\_y with fear *v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
56. a\_\_e all the time *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

ANSWERS: 47. dogged, 48. lamppost, 49. crumple, 50. devastate, 51. ocular, 52. reframe, 53. determinant, 54. archaeology, 55. petrify, 56. ache

ANSWERS:

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the corner of the street has been out for a week, making it difficult to see at night.  
*n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
2. After using the new \_\_\_\_\_ lens, the photographer took extremely sharp and detailed pictures.  
*adj.* relating to the eyes or vision; visual; pertaining to or connected with the sense of sight
3. 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
4. He used a sharp tool to \_\_\_\_\_ his initials onto the metal.  
*v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
5. The zoo has an \_\_\_\_\_ peacock, a rare and stunning sight.  
*adj.* characterized by a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes, resulting in a pale or white appearance; lacking the usual coloration or pigmentation
6. She identified the \_\_\_\_\_ thief using the CCTV footage.  
*n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle
7. The car \_\_\_\_\_ after colliding with the tree.  
*v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

ANSWERS: 1. lamppost, 2. ocular, 3. impersonate, 4. etch, 5. albino, 6. motorbike, 7. crumpled

8. I had to \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes to read the small print on the menu.
- v. to look at something with half-closed eyes, especially when trying to see more clearly or in bright light; to consider or examine something with suspicion, doubt, or skepticism
9. She faced numerous obstacles, but her \_\_\_\_\_ determination allowed her to overcome them all.
- adj. showing persistent determination or tenacity, often in the face of difficulty or opposition; steadfastly pursuing a goal or objective
10. The therapist tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his negative thoughts.
- v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
11. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which \_\_\_\_\_ coastal areas.
- v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
12. She teaches \_\_\_\_\_ at the local university.
- n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
13. I will \_\_\_\_\_ these old shoes in the trash and buy a new pair.
- v. to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone
14. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her with his charm and wit.
- v. to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
15. The car \_\_\_\_\_ into the wall, causing significant damage.
- v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force

ANSWERS: 8. squint, 9. dogged, 10. reframe, 11. devastate, 12. archaeology, 13. chuck, 14. woo, 15. rammed

16. He was a true \_\_\_\_\_ always courteous and respectful to everyone he met.
- n.* a polite or formal term used to refer to a man, particularly one who is gentle or refined in manners or behavior; short for a gentleman
17. The older man had a \_\_\_\_\_ removed from his eye, which improved his vision significantly.
- n.* a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision; a large waterfall
18. I heard someone \_\_\_\_\_ on the door, and when I opened it, no one was there.
- v.* to strike or hit heavily or repeatedly, often with a dull, resonating sound; to pound or beat forcefully
19. The child wiped away the sticky \_\_\_\_\_ from his nose with a tissue.
- n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing
20. His \_\_\_\_\_ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
21. The accident made his vision \_\_\_\_\_.
- v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
22. The baby started to \_\_\_\_\_ on a piece of apple.
- v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
23. 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

ANSWERS: 16. gent, 17. cataract, 18. thump, 19. snot, 20. pretensions, 21. impaired, 22. choke, 23. determinant



24. The thought of public speaking will \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
*v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
25. The news of the pandemic was a \_\_\_\_\_ reminder of the fragility of human health.  
*adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
26. The band's new album was a \_\_\_\_\_ success, reaching the top of the charts.  
*adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
27. I \_\_\_\_\_ all over after running a marathon yesterday.  
*v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
28. I have to \_\_\_\_\_ over to the next desk because there's not enough room for me to sit comfortably.  
*v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device

ANSWERS: 24. petrify, 25. frightening, 26. smashing, 27. ache, 28. scoot