

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christopher Warner: What is verbal irony? | TED Talk  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher\\_warner\\_what\\_is\\_verbal\\_irony](https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher_warner_what_is_verbal_irony)

### 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

- rev** *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute  
*synonym* : revolution, RPM, speed  
(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd  
He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.
- singe** *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake  
*synonym* : sear, char, burn  
(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric  
I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.
- loom** *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way  
*synonym* : appear, come on, overshadow  
(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon  
The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.
- tempest** *n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or

feelings

*synonym* : storm, hurricane, cyclone

(1) violent **tempest**, (2) **tempest** in a teapot

The sailor skillfully navigated his ship through the **tempest**.

## sarcasm

*n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt

*synonym* : mockery, irony, satire

(1) **sarcasm-laden** remark, (2) heavy **sarcasm**

His constant use of **sarcasm** created a hostile and uncomfortable environment.

## sarcastic

*adj.* using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone

*synonym* : mocking, ironic, sardonic

(1) use **sarcastic** language, (2) **sarcastic** sense of humor

Her **sarcastic** remarks made it clear that she wasn't happy with the situation.

## 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.

## tripping

*adj.* describing a state of mind or perception characterized by altered or distorted sensory experiences, often as a result of taking drugs or psychedelics; stumbling or faltering while walking or moving, often due to a loss of balance or coordination

*synonym* : trippy, hallucinogenic, mind-altering

(1) **tripping** hazards, (2) **tripping** on acid

Her **tripping** laughter echoed through the room, spreading contagious joy to everyone present.

## ironic

*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

*synonym* : sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

## beware

*v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

*synonym* : heed, caution, alert

(1) **beware** of scams, (2) **beware** of strangers

Please **beware** of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. heavy sa\_\_\_\_\_m  
*n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt
2. tr\_\_\_\_\_ng on acid  
*adj.* describing a state of mind or perception characterized by altered or distorted sensory experiences, often as a result of taking drugs or psychedelics; stumbling or faltering while walking or moving, often due to a loss of balance or coordination
3. si\_\_e the edges of a fabric  
*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
4. sa\_\_\_\_\_m-laden remark  
*n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt
5. be\_\_\_e of strangers  
*v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
6. sa\_\_\_\_\_ic sense of humor  
*adj.* using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone
7. low-r\_v engine  
*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 1. sarcasm, 2. tripping, 3. singe, 4. sarcasm, 5. beware, 6. sarcastic, 7. rev

8. ir\_\_\_c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
9. an ir\_\_\_c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
10. be\_\_\_e of scams *v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
11. te\_\_\_\_\_t in a teapot *n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
12. r\_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
13. si\_\_\_e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
14. tr\_\_\_\_\_ng hazards *adj.* describing a state of mind or perception characterized by altered or distorted sensory experiences, often as a result of taking drugs or psychedelics; stumbling or faltering while walking or moving, often due to a loss of balance or coordination
15. l\_\_\_m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

ANSWERS: 8. ironic, 9. ironic, 10. beware, 11. tempest, 12. rev, 13. singe, 14. tripping, 15. loom

16. violent te\_\_\_\_t *n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
17. l\_\_m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
18. p\_\_e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
19. p\_\_e around the desk *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
20. use sa\_\_\_\_\_ic language *adj.* using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone

ANSWERS: 16. tempest, 17. loom, 18. poke, 19. poke, 20. sarcastic

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.  
*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_ remarks made it clear that she wasn't happy with the situation.  
*adj.* using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone
3. His constant use of \_\_\_\_\_ created a hostile and uncomfortable environment.  
*n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt
4. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and \_\_\_\_\_ my dress.  
*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
5. The sailor skillfully navigated his ship through the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
6. They \_\_\_\_\_ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.  
*v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
7. Her \_\_\_\_\_ laughter echoed through the room, spreading contagious joy to everyone present.  
*adj.* describing a state of mind or perception characterized by altered or distorted sensory experiences, often as a result of taking drugs or psychedelics; stumbling or faltering while walking or moving, often due to a loss of balance or coordination

ANSWERS: 1. ironic, 2. sarcastic, 3. sarcasm, 4. singed, 5. tempest, 6. poked, 7. tripping

8. Please \_\_\_\_\_ of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.
- v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
9. The issue of divorce \_\_\_\_\_ large in his mind.
- v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
10. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_.
- n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 8. beware, 9. loomed, 10. rev