

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Eric Berlow: Simplifying complexity | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eric\\_berlow\\_simplifying\\_complexity](https://www.ted.com/talks/eric_berlow_simplifying_complexity)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### overwhelm

*v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

*synonym*: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

### baguette

*n.* a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

*synonym*: french bread, loaf, stick

(1) crusty **baguette**, (2) fresh **baguette**

I bought a delicious **baguette** from the bakery for dinner.

### poppy

*n.* a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives

(1) **poppy** tea, (2) **poppy** seeds

She wore a red **poppy** on her lapel to honor the veterans.

### ecologist

*n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or

exterior

*synonym* : conservationist, naturalist

(1) behavioral **ecologist**, (2) forestry **ecologist**

The forestry **ecologist** studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.

**interconnect**

*v.* to connect similar things

*synonym* : interlink, connect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

**alpine**

*adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

*synonym* : mountain, highland, elevated

(1) **alpine** region, (2) **alpine** plant

We went on an exhilarating **alpine** adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

**brink**

*n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

*synonym* : edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

**mosquito**

*n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

*synonym* : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

**visualize**

*v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

*synonym* : imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

## untangle

*v.* to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain

*synonym*: disentangle, unravel, decipher

(1) **untangle** a situation, (2) **untangle** a problem

I need to **untangle** this knot before using this rope piece.

## supple

*adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas

*synonym*: flexible, pliable, bendable

(1) **supple** muscles, (2) **supple** leather

The ballerina's **supple** movements left the audience mesmerized.

## hone

*v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

*synonym*: sharpen, refine, perfect

(1) **hone** abilities, (2) **hone** intuition

The athlete worked with a coach to **hone** her techniques and improve her performance.

## nod

*v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

*synonym*: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

## insurgent

*adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency

*synonym*: subversive, rebellious, mutinous

(1) **insurgent** attack, (2) **insurgent** group

The government forces fought brutally against the **insurgent** rebels in the remote region.

## ridicule

*n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

*synonym*: derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

## actionable

*adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies

*synonym*: feasible, achievable, practical

(1) **actionable** advice, (2) **actionable** steps

The report highlighted several **actionable** recommendations for improving customer satisfaction.

## rivalry

*n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

*synonym*: competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

## 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.

## 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.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. ri\_\_\_\_le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
  
2. po\_\_y seeds *n.* a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives
  
3. ex\_\_\_e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
  
4. al\_\_\_e region *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain
  
5. behavioral ec\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
  
6. h\_\_e intuition *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
  
7. fresh ba\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

ANSWERS: 1. ridicule, 2. poppy, 3. excite, 4. alpine, 5. ecologist, 6. hone, 7. baguette

8. ex\_\_\_e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
9. po\_\_y tea *n.* a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives
10. n\_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
11. su\_\_\_e muscles *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
12. vi\_\_\_\_\_ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
13. fierce ri\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
14. br\_\_k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
15. he was ov\_\_\_\_\_lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
16. h\_\_e abilities *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
17. act\_\_\_\_\_le steps *adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies

ANSWERS: 8. excite, 9. poppy, 10. nod, 11. supple, 12. visualize, 13. rivalry, 14. brink, 15. overwhelm, 16. hone, 17. actionable

18. in\_\_\_\_\_nt attack *adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency
19. de\_\_\_\_\_er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
20. mo\_\_\_\_\_to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
21. human activities int\_\_\_\_\_ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
22. un\_\_\_\_\_le a situation *v.* to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain
23. public ri\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
24. n\_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
25. de\_\_\_\_\_er code *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

ANSWERS: 18. insurgent, 19. decipher, 20. mosquito, 21. interconnect, 22. untangle, 23. ridicule, 24. nod, 25. decipher

26. ri\_\_\_\_y among airlines *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
27. forestry ec\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
28. ov\_\_\_\_\_lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
29. directly int\_\_\_\_\_ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
30. su\_\_\_e leather *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
31. un\_\_\_\_\_le a problem *v.* to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain
32. crusty ba\_\_\_\_\_te *n.* a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape
33. on the br\_\_k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
34. al\_\_\_e plant *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

ANSWERS: 26. rivalry, 27. ecologist, 28. overwhelm, 29. interconnect, 30. supple, 31. untangle, 32. baguette, 33. brink, 34. alpine



35. in\_\_\_\_\_nt group      *adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency
36. act\_\_\_\_\_le advice      *adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies
37. mo\_\_\_\_\_to bite      *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
38. vi\_\_\_\_\_ze data      *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

ANSWERS: 35. insurgent, 36. actionable, 37. mosquito, 38. visualize

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two teams was intense and heated.  
*n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
  
2. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
  
3. The news of her promotion \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
*v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
  
4. The forestry \_\_\_\_\_ studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.  
*n.* a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
  
5. 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
  
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ quietly in response to the question.  
*v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
  
7. We were on the \_\_\_\_\_ of a financial crisis.  
*n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

ANSWERS: 1. rivalry, 2. mosquitos, 3. excited, 4. ecologist, 5. decipher, 6. nodded, 7. brink

8. Too much variety may \_\_\_\_\_ and confuse viewers.
- v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
9. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ this knot before using this rope piece.
- v. to separate or straighten out something that is tangled, confused, or complicated; to clarify or make sense of something difficult to understand or explain
10. Our system can now \_\_\_\_\_ with other databases.
- v. to connect similar things
11. She wore a red \_\_\_\_\_ on her lapel to honor the veterans.
- n. a plant with large, showy flowers of various colors, including red, pink, yellow, and white, and a capsule containing small seeds, and some species of poppy are used to produce opium and its derivatives
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.
- n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
13. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the layout of the new house in her mind.
- v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
14. I bought a delicious \_\_\_\_\_ from the bakery for dinner.
- n. a long, narrow loaf of bread, typically with a crispy crust and a soft, light interior; a diamond or gemstone cut in a long, narrow shape

ANSWERS: 8. overwhelm, 9. untangle, 10. interconnect, 11. poppy, 12. ridicule, 13. visualize, 14. baguette

15. The ballerina's \_\_\_\_\_ movements left the audience mesmerized.

*adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas

16. We went on an exhilarating \_\_\_\_\_ adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

*adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

17. The athlete worked with a coach to \_\_\_\_\_ her techniques and improve her performance.

*v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

18. The report highlighted several \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations for improving customer satisfaction.

*adj.* capable of being acted upon or pursued legally; able to be taken as a basis for legal actions or remedies

19. The government forces fought brutally against the \_\_\_\_\_ rebels in the remote region.

*adj.* rising against established authority or government; characterized by rebellion, dissent, or insurgency

ANSWERS: 15. supple, 16. alpine, 17. hone, 18. actionable, 19. insurgent