# **Englist.me**

# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tom Shannon, John Hockenberry: The painter and the pendulum | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/tom\_shannon\_john\_hockenberry\_the\_painter\_and\_the\_pendulum



# **Advanced Words Only**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

#### interplay

n. the way in which two or more things interact or influence each other

synonym: interaction, give-and-take, interconnection

(1) **interplay** among neurons, (2) complex **interplay**The **interplay** of light and shadow creates a dramatic effect in the painting.

# taper

v. to become or cause something to become gradually narrower at one end

synonym: decrease, dwindle, diminish

(1) **taper** the medication slowly, (2) **taper** the dose down Most of the tree trunks **taper** toward the top.

#### astronaut

*n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

synonym: spaceman, cosmonaut

(1) **astronaut** mission, (2) **astronaut** in training

The shuttle **astronaut** trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

# meaningless

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

synonym: pointless, absurd, senseless

(1) a meaningless endeavor, (2) do a meaningless task

This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.

#### levitate

v. to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner

synonym: hover, float, soar

(1) **levitate** objects, (2) **levitate** for a few seconds

The magician appeared to **levitate** off the stage, stunning the audience.

#### tether

v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

synonym: tie, fasten, secure

(1) **tether** a horse, (2) **tether** strap

The hiker **tethered** their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.

# unsatisfactory

adj. not meeting the desired or expected standard or quality synonym: inadequate, subpar, lacking

(1) **unsatisfactory** performance, (2) **unsatisfactory** on several counts

The service was **unsatisfactory**, and the customer demanded a refund.

# magnetism

n. the force that causes attraction or repulsion between magnetic substances; a charismatic or attractive quality that attracts people or causes them to be drawn to someone or something

synonym: attraction, charisma, allure

(1) the **magnetism** of the moon, (2) animal **magnetism** The child was drawn to the **magnetism** of the colorful toy display in the store.

# pendulum

 a weight hung from a fixed point used to regulate the movement of a clock or other mechanism synonym: oscillator, balance, clock

(1) **pendulum** swings, (2) political **pendulum** 

The **pendulum** clock was a familiar sight in the old house.

#### billow

v. to surge or rise in a large, swelling mass, especially of smoke or water; (noun) a large wave or swell of something, especially water or smoke

synonym: wave, swell, surge

(1) billow cloud, (2) billow like a sail

The smoke **billowed** out of the chimney and into the sky.

### penetrate

v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

synonym: pierce, stab, go through

(1) **penetrate** a cell, (2) **penetrate** quickly into the skin Western ideology slowly **penetrates** through the eastern countries.

#### deterministic

adj. characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations

synonym: predictable, predetermined, certain

(1) **deterministic** approach, (2) **deterministic** system The **deterministic** algorithm always produces the same result for a given input.

spigot

 a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe

synonym: faucet, tap, valve

(1) shut off the **spigot**, (2) open the **spigot** 

The **spigot** on the outdoor faucet was leaking and needed to be fixed.

#### passe

 adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) passe entertainment, (2) passe trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passe** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

### playful

adj. having a lighthearted, mischievous, or fun-loving nature;
 displaying a sense of enjoyment or amusement;
 characterized by a desire for entertainment or play

synonym: mischievous, frisky, sportful

(1) playful puppy, (2) playful children

The children couldn't contain their **playful** excitement at seeing the new playground.

#### redeem

v. to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation

synonym: rescue, save, recover

(1) **redeem** a coupon, (2) **redeem** a government bond He tried to **redeem** himself by volunteering at the local charity after his mistakes.

# contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

synonym: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

servo

 a type of motor or mechanism used to control the position or movement of a machine or device, often used in robotics, automation, and other applications

*synonym*: actuator, motor, controller

(1) analog servo, (2) servo controller

A **servo** motor controlled the robot's movements.

#### dispense

 to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients

synonym: distribute, allocate, deal out

dispense with ceremony, (2) dispense justice
 The pharmacist started to dispense medication to patients.

# centrifugal

 adj. tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or diverging from a common point or central idea

synonym: outward, diverging, radiating

(1) **centrifugal** acceleration, (2) **centrifugal** casting
The **centrifugal** force of the spinning ride caused my hair to fly in all directions.

# ripple

 a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym: wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

# disturb

- v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. synonym: agitate, bother, intrude
- (1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

#### moire

n. a pattern or effect created by the superimposition of two regular patterns, typically produced by the interference of light waves or the overlapping of textile threads, often characterized by a wavy or rippling appearance

synonym: watered silk, watered textile

(1) **moire** fabric, (2) **moire** interference

The fabric had a beautiful **moire** pattern that added a touch of elegance to the dress.

#### ubiquitous

adj. being or existing everywhere at oncesynonym: universal, omnipresent, everywhere

(1) **ubiquitous** computing, (2) **ubiquitous** across ecosystems

Sugar is **ubiquitous** in food.

#### concentric

adj. having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another

synonym: homocentric, nested, circular

(1) **concentric** design, (2) **concentric** shades of color **Concentric** circles surrounded the target on the shooting range.

# ellipse

a closed curve with a shape resembling a stretched circle; in geometry, a figure formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane, where the plane cuts through both halves of the cone

synonym: oval, oblong, curve

(1) Kepler's ellipse, (2) planetary ellipse

He used the **ellipse** equation to calculate the dimensions of the oval-shaped garden.

#### dutiful

 adj. motivated by a sense of duty or obligation; willingly and conscientiously fulfilling one's responsibilities or obligations

synonym: obedient, compliant, responsible

(1) dutiful obedience, (2) dutiful employee

The secretary was appreciated for her **dutiful** service and organization in the office.

#### exactitude

*n*. the quality of being precise and accurate, with attention to the finest details; correctness or exactness

synonym: accuracy, precision, meticulousness

(1) **exactitude** of measurements, (2) **exactitude** in details The scientist maintained **exactitude** standards in his research to achieve reliable results.

#### astronomical

 adj. relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

synonym: huge, vast, enormous

(1) **astronomical** observation, (2) **astronomical** numbers The cost of the new equipment was **astronomical** and beyond the company's budget.

#### crocodile

 a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats

synonym: alligator, gator, croc

(1) **crocodile** hide, (2) saltwater **crocodile** 

The **crocodile** attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear

#### conceivable

adj. imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

synonym: believable, imaginable, probable

(1) **conceivable** way, (2) **conceivable** emergency It is challenging to defend every **conceivable** target.

#### confrontation

 the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement

*synonym*: face-off, conflict, competition

(1) violent **confrontation**, (2) verbal **confrontation**The **confrontation** between the two nations escalated into a full-blown war.

#### dissonant

adj. sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions

synonym: discordant, harsh, inharmonious

(1) a dissonant voice, (2) dissonant note

The **dissonant** sound from the poorly tuned instruments was painful to listen to.

#### creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym: crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

#### tremor

- n. a small earthquake or shaking or vibrating
- synonym: shaking, quivering, trembling

a tremor of delight, (2) tremor frequency
 bad tremor caused several buildings to collapse.

#### left-handed

adv. using the left hand more skillfully or naturally; (adverb) in a way that is specific to or unique to left-handed individuals

synonym: sinister, southpaw, portside

(1) **left-handed** writer, (2) **left-handed** pitcher She writes **left-handed** and finds it challenging to use a standard pen.

# gatekeeper

 a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

synonym: guardian, watchman, custodian

(1) **gatekeeper** role, (2) information **gatekeeper**The company's **gatekeeper screened** all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the boss.

### godsend

 something or someone that comes unexpectedly and is very helpful or beneficial

synonym: blessing, gift, windfall

(1) **godsend** opportunity, (2) a **godsend** for farmers

The extra funding for the project was a **godsend** and allowed us to complete it on time.

# 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.

# spokesperson

 a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

synonym: representative, interpreter, mouthpiece

(1) company **spokesperson**, (2) official **spokesperson**The celebrity **spokesperson** made an appearance at the product launch event.

# pigment

 a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced

synonym: dye, colorant, tint

(1) skin **pigment**, (2) **pigment** accumulation

The use of synthetic **pigments** in food production has become controversial due to health concerns.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

7.

information gat\_\_\_\_er

1.	hug sound	adj.	producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
2.	analog seo	n.	a type of motor or mechanism used to control the position or movement of a machine or device, often used in robotics, automation, and other applications
3.	dint note	adj.	sounds that are not in harmony or are i conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions
4.	verbal conion	n.	the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement
5.	dettic approach	adj.	characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations
6.	dise with ceremony	<i>v</i> .	to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients

something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

controls or monitors access to

a person, organization, or system that

in

ANSWERS: 1. humming, 2. servo, 3. dissonant, 4. confrontation, 5. deterministic, 6. dispense, 7. gatekeeper

n.

8.	exade of measurements	n.	the quality of being precise and accurate, with attention to the finest details; correctness or exactness
9.	ubius across ecosystems	adj.	being or existing everywhere at once
10.	crp along the leaf	ν.	to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
11.	planetary ele	n.	a closed curve with a shape resembling a stretched circle; in geometry, a figure formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane, where the plane cuts through both halves of the cone
12.	tar the medication slowly	<i>v</i> .	to become or cause something to become gradually narrower at one end
13.	conle way	adj.	imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind
14.	asut in training	n.	a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
15.	exade in details	n.	the quality of being precise and accurate, with attention to the finest details; correctness or exactness
16.	political peum	n.	a weight hung from a fixed point used to regulate the movement of a clock or other mechanism
17.	biw like a sail	ν.	to surge or rise in a large, swelling mass, especially of smoke or water; (noun) a large wave or swell of something, especially water or smoke
18.	peum swings	n.	a weight hung from a fixed point used to regulate the movement of a clock or other mechanism

ANSWERS: 8. exactitude, 9. ubiquitous, 10. creep, 11. ellipse, 12. taper, 13. conceivable, 14. astronaut, 15. exactitude, 16. pendulum, 17. billow, 18. pendulum

19.	a meass endeavor	adj.	having no meaning, direction, or purpose
20.	lete for a few seconds	<i>v</i> .	to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner
21.	a trr of delight	n.	a small earthquake or shaking or vibrating
22.	moe fabric	n.	a pattern or effect created by the superimposition of two regular patterns, typically produced by the interference of light waves or the overlapping of textile threads, often characterized by a wavy or rippling appearance
23.	ubius computing	adj.	being or existing everywhere at once
24.	complex inay	n.	the way in which two or more things interact or influence each other
25.	duI employee	adj.	motivated by a sense of duty or obligation; willingly and conscientiously fulfilling one's responsibilities or obligations
26.	conic design	adj.	having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
27.	company sposon	n.	a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
28.	do a meass task	adj.	having no meaning, direction, or purpose

ANSWERS: 19. meaningless, 20. levitate, 21. tremor, 22. moire, 23. ubiquitous, 24. interplay, 25. dutiful, 26. concentric, 27. spokesperson, 28. meaningless

29.	unsory on several counts	adj.	not meeting the desired or expected standard or quality
30.	asut mission	n.	a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
31.	a god for farmers	n.	something or someone that comes unexpectedly and is very helpful or beneficial
32.	crle hide	n.	a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
33.	conle emergency	adj.	imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind
34.	astcal observation	adj.	relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
35.	duI obedience	adj.	motivated by a sense of duty or obligation; willingly and conscientiously fulfilling one's responsibilities or obligations
36.	god opportunity	n.	something or someone that comes unexpectedly and is very helpful or beneficial
37.	dettic system	adj.	characterized by an assumption of cause and effect and the absence of chance or randomness, often used to describe scientific or engineering calculations
38.	cenal acceleration	adj.	tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or

ANSWERS: 29. unsatisfactory, 30. astronaut, 31. godsend, 32. crocodile, 33. conceivable, 34. astronomical, 35. dutiful, 36. godsend, 37. deterministic, 38. centrifugal

diverging from a common point or

central idea

39.	conte a marriage	<i>v</i> .	to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
40.	astcal numbers	adj.	relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
41.	gater role	n.	a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
42.	trr frequency	n.	a small earthquake or shaking or vibrating
43.	saltwater crle	n.	a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
44.	dib his sleep	v.	to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
45.	shut off the spt	n.	a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe
46.	dise justice	<i>v</i> .	to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
47.	tar the dose down	<i>v</i> .	to become or cause something to become gradually narrower at one end
48.	Kepler's ele	n.	a closed curve with a shape resembling a stretched circle; in geometry, a figure formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane, where the plane cuts through both halves of the cone

ANSWERS: 39. contemplate, 40. astronomical, 41. gatekeeper, 42. tremor, 43. crocodile, 44. disturb, 45. spigot, 46. dispense, 47. taper, 48. ellipse

ANSWERS: 49. magnetism, 50. moire, 51. magnetism, 52. contemplate, 53. tether, 54. left-handed

55.	plI children	adj.	having a lighthearted, mischievous, or fun-loving nature; displaying a sense of enjoyment or amusement; characterized by a desire for entertainment or play
56.	pit accumulation	n.	a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced
57.	a dint voice	adj.	sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions
58.	crp toward the mouse	<i>v</i> .	to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
59.	skin pit	n.	a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced
60.	rem a coupon	ν.	to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
61.	inay among neurons	<i>n</i> .	the way in which two or more things interact or influence each other
62.	a rie of laughter	n.	a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

ANSWERS: 55. playful, 56. pigment, 57. dissonant, 58. creep, 59. pigment, 60. redeem, 61. interplay, 62. ripple

63.	seo controller	n.	a type of motor or mechanism used to control the position or movement of a machine or device, often used in robotics, automation, and other applications
64.	hug bird	adj.	producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
65.	lefed writer	adv.	using the left hand more skillfully or naturally; (adverb) in a way that is specific to or unique to left-handed individuals
66.	open the spt	n.	a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe
67.	unsory performance	adj.	not meeting the desired or expected standard or quality
68.	official sposon	n.	a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
69.	pete a cell	<i>v</i> .	to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
70.	conic shades of color	adj.	having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
71.	pete quickly into the skin	<i>v</i> .	to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
72.	pae trend	adj.	no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

ANSWERS: 63. servo, 64. humming, 65. left-handed, 66. spigot, 67. unsatisfactory, 68. spokesperson, 69. penetrate, 70. concentric, 71. penetrate, 72. passe

ANSWERS: 73. disturb, 74. tether, 75. centrifugal, 76. billow, 77. playful, 78. confrontation, 79. ripple, 80. passe

old-fashioned or out of date

- 81. le\_\_\_\_te objects
- 82. re\_\_\_m a government bond
- v. to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner
- v. to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation

ANSWERS: 81. levitate, 82. redeem

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	The attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear
n.	a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
2.	The celebrity made an appearance at the product launch event.
n.	a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
3.	The secretary was appreciated for her service and organization in the office.
adj	motivated by a sense of duty or obligation; willingly and conscientiously fulfilling one's responsibilities or obligations
4.	A motor controlled the robot's movements.
n.	a type of motor or mechanism used to control the position or movement of a machine or device, often used in robotics, automation, and other applications
5.	The child was drawn to the of the colorful toy display in the store.
n.	the force that causes attraction or repulsion between magnetic substances; a charismatic or attractive quality that attracts people or causes them to be drawn to someone or something
6.	The pharmacist started to medication to patients.
v.	to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
7.	The force of the spinning ride caused my hair to fly in all directions.
adj	tending or acting to move away from a center; relating to or operating by means of this force; deviating or diverging from a common point or central idea
	SWERS: 1. crocodile, 2. spokesperson, 3. dutiful, 4. servo, 5. magnetism, 6. pense, 7. centrifugal

ANSWERS: 8. tremor, 9. meaningless, 10. spigot, 11. passe, 12. redeem, 13. billowed, 14. levitate, 15. contemplated

ANSWERS: 16. conceivable, 17. pendulum, 18. Concentric, 19. dissonant, 20. ripple, 21. confrontation, 22. tethered, 23. ubiquitous

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ANSWERS: 32. godsend, 33. pigments, 34. taper, 35. deterministic, 36. astronaut, 37. penetrates, 38. astronomical

controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Tom Shannon, John Hockenberry: The painter and the pendulum | TED Talk" (41 words)

ANSWERS: 39. humming, 40. left-handed, 41. gatekeeper screened

perspective or interest