

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Alain de Botton: A kinder, gentler philosophy of success | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alain\\_de\\_botton\\_a\\_kinder\\_gentler\\_philosophy\\_of\\_success](https://www.ted.com/talks/alain_de_botton_a_kinder_gentler_philosophy_of_success)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### diverge

v. to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course

*synonym*: separate, split, part

(1) **diverge** from tradition, (2) **diverge** from the main topic

As tectonic plates **diverge**, new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.

### weep

v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

*synonym*: cry, sob, mourn

(1) **weep** bitter tears, (2) **weep** for joy

I'm easily moved to tears, so I would **weep** in sympathy if I saw that movie.

### punctuate

v. to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically

*synonym*: emphasize, accent, mark

(1) **punctuate** a sentence, (2) **punctuate** his talk

Strikes had also **punctuated** the preceding weeks.

### snob

n. a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured

*synonym* : snoot, elitist, pretentious person

(1) have **snob** appeal, (2) rich **snob**

He's a **snob** when it comes to music and only listens to classical.

## snobbery

*n.* the behavior or attitude of a person who believes they are superior to others because of their social status, wealth, or education and who looks down on those they consider inferior

*synonym* : elitism, arrogance, haughtiness

(1) cultural **snobbery**, (2) academic **snobbery**

Her **snobbery** and pretentious behavior made it difficult for her to make friends.

## fixate

*v.* to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image

*synonym* : obsess, fix, concentrate

(1) **fixate** on a problem, (2) **fixate** on a picture

She tends to **fixate** on small details, often losing sight of the bigger picture.

## moth

*n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

## materialistic

*adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth

*synonym* : worldly, consumerist, acquisitive

(1) **materialistic** lifestyle, (2) **materialistic** values

Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a **materialistic** goal.

## greedy

*adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

*synonym* : avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

## peg

*n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object

*synonym* : pin, dowel, spike

(1) **peg** in the ground, (2) **peg** an exchange rate

The sheep were tagged with numbered plastic **pegs** in their ears.

## paradoxical

*adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

*synonym* : contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical** it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

## lifespan

*n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

*synonym* : duration, lifetime, continuance

(1) **lifespan** extension, (2) **lifespan** retrieval curve

Generally speaking, men have a shorter **lifespan** than women.

## caste

*n.* a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society

*synonym* : class, social group, status group

(1) military **caste**, (2) **caste-based** discrimination

He was born into a lower **caste** and faced discrimination throughout his life.

## envy

- v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

*synonym* : covet, resent, grudge

(1) **envy** his success, (2) feeling **envy** toward him

I can't help but **envy** my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

## envious

- adj.* feeling or showing envy, which is the desire to have or possess something that belongs to someone else, often accompanied by a feeling of resentment or discontent; characterized by jealousy

*synonym* : jealous, covetous, green-eyed

(1) **envious** gaze, (2) feel **envious**

She was **envious** of her friend's success in the stock market.

## incidentally

- adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing

*synonym* : by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

**Incidentally**, I know the answer to that question.

## jean

- n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

*synonym* : denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

## accede

- v. to agree to a request, demand, or proposal; to give in to someone's opinion or desire; to assume a position of power or authority, especially after the death or retirement of a predecessor

*synonym* : acquiesce, consent, agree

(1) **accede** to a treaty, (2) **accede** to the throne

After much deliberation, the committee finally **acceded** to the

workers' demands.

## aristocracy

*n.* a group of persons with high social status

*synonym*: elite, nobility, upper class

(1) member of the **aristocracy**, (2) the blue-blooded **aristocracy**

Despite his popularity among the **aristocracy**, he was unpopular with the general public.

## sect

*n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

*synonym*: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

## politely

*adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

*synonym*: courteously, respectfully, graciously

(1) **politely** ask, (2) nodded **politely**

She **politely** declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.

## impolite

*adj.* lacking good manners or courteousness; rude; showing a lack of respect for social conventions or established customs

*synonym*: impudent, rude, discourteous

(1) **impolite** behavior, (2) an **impolite** comment

It is **impolite** to talk with your mouth full at the dinner table.

## kickback

*n.* a sum of money or other payment made illegally or unlawfully to someone as a reward for facilitating or promoting a particular transaction or arrangement, especially a bribe or commission; a sudden reaction or backward motion caused by a force

*synonym*: bribe, payoff, backhander

(1) **kickback** in my shoulder, (2) financial **kickback**  
The businessman was involved in a **kickback** scheme, receiving illegal payments in exchange for favorable contracts.

### meritocratic

*adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements  
*synonym* : merit-based, fair, unbiased

(1) **meritocratic** society, (2) **meritocratic** evaluation  
The company prides itself on being **meritocratic** in its hiring and promotion practices.

### exhilarating

*adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill  
*synonym* : thrilling, exciting, stimulating

(1) an **exhilarating** drink, (2) **exhilarating** view  
Bungee jumping was an **exhilarating** experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

### sociologist

*n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

(1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**  
**Sociologist** studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

### individualism

*n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant  
*synonym* : self-reliance, autonomy, self-sufficiency

(1) rampant **individualism**, (2) nation of **individualism**  
An ethic of **individualism** encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.

### quote

*v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

*synonym* :

cite, reference, mention

(1) **quote** a source, (2) **quote** a price

In his speech, he **quoted** a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.

## **solace**

*n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

*synonym* : comfort, condolence, peace

(1) **solace** in music, (2) offer **solace**

The grieving widow found **solace** in reading her late husband's letters.

## **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.

## **passee**

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

*synonym* : outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

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

## **devote**

*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

*synonym* : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

## tabloid

*adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

*synonym* : gossipy, sensationalistic, scandalous

(1) **tabloid** journalism, (2) political **tabloid**

The **tabloid** newspaper always covers sensational stories.

## seize

*v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

*synonym* : grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

## fascinate

*v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

*synonym* : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

## senator

*n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

*synonym* : legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

## plotline

*n.* a sequence of events that make up a story or the main theme of a literary work

*synonym* : storyline, narrative, plot

(1) the **plotline** of a story, (2) the **plotline** of a movie

The book's **plotline** was full of twists and turns that kept the reader engaged.



## enchant

*v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone  
*synonym*: charm, captivate, bewitch

(1) **enchant** the audience, (2) **enchant** the crowd

The fairy's spell **enchanted** the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.

## workaholic

*n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively

*synonym*: workhorse, drudge

(1) **workaholic** habits, (2) self-proclaimed **workaholic**

The company's founder was a notorious **workaholic** who spent every waking hour building the business.

## arsenic

*n.* a poisonous chemical element that occurs naturally in some rocks and minerals and is sometimes used in pesticides and wood preservatives

*synonym*: poison, toxin

(1) **arsenic** poisoning, (2) **arsenic** contamination

Exposure to **arsenic** in drinking water can cause serious health problems.

## aft

*adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

## creditor

*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

## hamlet

*n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church

*synonym*: village, settlement, community

(1) **hamlet** village, (2) historic **hamlet**

The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small **hamlet**.

## transcendent

*adj.* going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime

*synonym* : beyond human experience, divine, spiritual

(1) **transcendent** wisdom, (2) **transcendent** joy

The **transcendent** beauty of the Grand Canyon took his breath away.

## anthill

*n.* a mound or hill made by a colony of ants, often as a nest or shelter, which can vary in size and shape depending on the species of ant and the surrounding environment

*synonym* : ant nest, ant mound, formicary

(1) **anthill** colony, (2) **anthill** on the trail

The ants were busy building an **anthill** in the garden.

## glacier

*n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole

*synonym* : iceberg, ice floe

(1) **glacier** retreat, (2) **glaciers** move tardily

The **glaciers** of the ice age have shaped Fjord.

## 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.

## renown

*n.* widespread recognition or fame for someone or something; the state of being highly respected or admired

*synonym* : fame, prestige, reputation

(1) academic **renown**, (2) architectural **renown**

The singer has gained international **renown** for her powerful voice and emotional performances.

## nuanced

*adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

*synonym*: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

## psychoanalysis

*n.* a system of psychological theory and therapy that aims to treat mental and emotional disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind

(1) freudian **psychoanalysis**, (2) **psychoanalysis** technique

She sought **psychoanalysis** to understand her childhood traumas.

## reconcile

*v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist

*synonym*: harmonize, moderate, conciliate

(1) **reconcile** these differences, (2) **reconcile** a dispute

Sometimes it is challenging to **reconcile** science and religion.

## disbeliever

*n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea

*synonym*: non-believer, skeptic, doubter

(1) persuade a **disbeliever**, (2) stubborn **disbeliever**

Despite the evidence, she remained a **disbeliever** in the theory of evolution.

## haphazard

*adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan

*synonym*: random, careless, arbitrary

(1) **haphazard** approach, (2) **haphazard** design

The company's hiring process was **haphazard**, with no objective criteria or standards.

## claustrophobia

*n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces

- (1) overcome **claustrophobia**,  
(2) **claustrophobia-inducing**

She suffered from **claustrophobia** and couldn't take elevators.

## 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.

## exemplary

*adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow  
*synonym*: ideal, illustrative, admirable

- (1) **exemplary** behavior, (2) **exemplary** customer service  
He exhibited exceptional and **exemplary** bravery.

## authoritarian

*adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

*synonym*: dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

- (1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

## lax

*adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient

*synonym*: loose, slack, relaxed

- (1) **lax** border controls, (2) **lax** attitude

The **lax** security measures allowed the thief to enter the building easily.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. freudian psy\_\_\_\_\_sis  
*n.* a system of psychological theory and therapy that aims to treat mental and emotional disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind
2. ha\_\_\_\_\_rd approach  
*adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
3. con\_\_\_\_\_te a marriage  
*v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
4. the common but nu\_\_\_\_\_d opinion  
*adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
5. en\_\_\_\_\_t the crowd  
*v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
6. pa\_\_e trend  
*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
7. li\_\_\_\_\_an retrieval curve  
*n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
8. ac\_\_\_e to the throne  
*v.* to agree to a request, demand, or proposal; to give in to someone's opinion or desire; to assume a position of power or authority, especially after the death or retirement of a predecessor

ANSWERS: 1. psychoanalysis, 2. haphazard, 3. contemplate, 4. nuanced, 5. enchant, 6. passe, 7. lifespan, 8. accede

9. wor\_\_\_\_\_ic habits *n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively
10. se\_\_\_\_\_r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
11. have s\_\_b appeal *n.* a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured
12. se\_\_e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
13. a\_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
14. mat\_\_\_\_\_tic lifestyle *adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
15. ha\_\_\_\_\_rd design *adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
16. secret s\_\_t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 9. workaholic, 10. senator, 11. snob, 12. seize, 13. aft, 14. materialistic, 15. haphazard, 16. sect

17. s\_\_t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
18. a par\_\_\_\_\_al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
19. stubborn dis\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
20. ac\_\_\_e to a treaty *v.* to agree to a request, demand, or proposal; to give in to someone's opinion or desire; to assume a position of power or authority, especially after the death or retirement of a predecessor
21. 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
22. psy\_\_\_\_\_sis technique *n.* a system of psychological theory and therapy that aims to treat mental and emotional disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind
23. li\_\_\_\_\_an extension *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

ANSWERS: 17. sect, 18. paradoxical, 19. disbeliever, 20. accede, 21. ridicule, 22. psychoanalysis, 23. lifespan

24. m\_\_h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
25. nodded po\_\_\_\_ly *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
26. military ca\_\_e *n.* a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society
27. the cr\_\_\_\_or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
28. so\_\_\_e in music *n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
29. p\_g in the ground *n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object
30. fi\_\_\_e on a picture *v.* to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image
31. an exh\_\_\_\_\_ing drink *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

ANSWERS: 24. moth, 25. politely, 26. caste, 27. creditor, 28. solace, 29. peg, 30. fixate, 31. exhilarating



32. gr\_\_\_y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
33. ha\_\_\_t village *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
34. gl\_\_\_\_\_r retreat *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
35. an\_\_\_\_\_l colony *n.* a mound or hill made by a colony of ants, often as a nest or shelter, which can vary in size and shape depending on the species of ant and the surrounding environment
36. re\_\_\_\_\_le these differences *v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
37. di\_\_\_\_\_e from the main topic *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
38. the pl\_\_\_\_\_ne of a movie *n.* a sequence of events that make up a story or the main theme of a literary work
39. de\_\_\_e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
40. feel en\_\_\_\_\_s *adj.* feeling or showing envy, which is the desire to have or possess something that belongs to someone else, often accompanied by a feeling of resentment or discontent; characterized by jealousy

ANSWERS: 32. greedy, 33. hamlet, 34. glacier, 35. anthill, 36. reconcile, 37. diverge, 38. plotline, 39. devote, 40. envious

41. gr\_\_\_y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
42. l\_x border controls *adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient
43. fri\_\_\_\_\_ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
44. fi\_\_\_e on a problem *v.* to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image
45. member of the ari\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a group of persons with high social status
46. w\_\_p for joy *v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
47. offer so\_\_\_e *n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; *(verb)* to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
48. m\_\_h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
49. fa\_\_\_\_\_te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
50. mat\_\_\_\_\_tic values *adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth

ANSWERS: 41. greedy, 42. lax, 43. frightening, 44. fixate, 45. aristocracy, 46. weep, 47. solace, 48. moth, 49. fascinate, 50. materialistic

51. pa\_\_e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
52. financial ki\_\_\_\_\_ck *n.* a sum of money or other payment made illegally or unlawfully to someone as a reward for facilitating or promoting a particular transaction or arrangement, especially a bribe or commission; a sudden reaction or backward motion caused by a force
53. religious soc\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
54. re\_\_\_\_\_le a dispute *v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
55. po\_\_\_\_\_ly ask *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
56. ca\_\_e-based discrimination *n.* a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society
57. architectural re\_\_\_\_n *n.* widespread recognition or fame for someone or something; the state of being highly respected or admired
58. bankrupt cr\_\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
59. fa\_\_\_\_\_te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

ANSWERS: 51. passe, 52. kickback, 53. sociologist, 54. reconcile, 55. politely, 56. caste, 57. renown, 58. creditor, 59. fascinate

60. rampant ind\_\_\_\_\_ism *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
61. an\_\_\_\_\_l on the trail *n.* a mound or hill made by a colony of ants, often as a nest or shelter, which can vary in size and shape depending on the species of ant and the surrounding environment
62. mer\_\_\_\_\_tic evaluation *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
63. di\_\_\_\_\_e from tradition *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
64. l\_x attitude *adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient
65. French soc\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
66. ar\_\_\_\_\_c poisoning *n.* a poisonous chemical element that occurs naturally in some rocks and minerals and is sometimes used in pesticides and wood preservatives
67. inc\_\_\_\_\_lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
68. p\_g an exchange rate *n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object
69. exh\_\_\_\_\_ing view *adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

ANSWERS: 60. individualism, 61. anthill, 62. meritocratic, 63. diverge, 64. lax, 65. sociologist, 66. arsenic, 67. incidentally, 68. peg, 69. exhilarating

70. feeling e\_\_y toward him
- v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
71. ex\_\_\_\_\_ry behavior
- adj. setting a positive example for others to follow
72. cultural sn\_\_\_\_\_ry
- n. the behavior or attitude of a person who believes they are superior to others because of their social status, wealth, or education and who looks down on those they consider inferior
73. de\_\_\_e all of my energies
- v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
74. an im\_\_\_\_\_te comment
- adj. lacking good manners or courteousness; rude; showing a lack of respect for social conventions or established customs
75. junior se\_\_\_\_\_r
- n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
76. qu\_\_e a source
- v. to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
77. rich s\_\_b
- n. a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured

ANSWERS: 70. envy, 71. exemplary, 72. snobbery, 73. devote, 74. impolite, 75. senator, 76. quote, 77. snob

78. nation of ind\_\_\_\_\_ism                    *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
79. a j\_\_n skirt                                    *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
80. a\_t cabin                                      *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
81. qu\_\_e a price                                *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
82. ar\_\_\_\_c contamination                    *n.* a poisonous chemical element that occurs naturally in some rocks and minerals and is sometimes used in pesticides and wood preservatives
83. historic ha\_\_\_\_t                            *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
84. ta\_\_\_\_d journalism                        *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news
85. pu\_\_\_\_te his talk                            *v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically

ANSWERS: 78. individualism, 79. jean, 80. aft, 81. quote, 82. arsenic, 83. hamlet, 84. tabloid, 85. punctuate

86. w\_\_p bitter tears      *v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
87. j\_\_n denim      *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
88. inc\_\_\_\_\_lly discovered      *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
89. en\_\_\_\_\_t the audience      *v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
90. pu\_\_\_\_\_te a sentence      *v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically
91. gl\_\_\_\_\_rs move tardily      *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
92. apparently par\_\_\_\_\_al      *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
93. 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
94. political ta\_\_\_\_\_d      *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

ANSWERS: 86. weep, 87. jean, 88. incidentally, 89. enchant, 90. punctuate, 91. glacier, 92. paradoxical, 93. ridicule, 94. tabloid

95. aut\_\_\_\_\_ian practice *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
96. nu\_\_\_\_\_d view *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
97. con\_\_\_\_\_ted leaving school *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
98. ki\_\_\_\_\_ck in my shoulder *n.* a sum of money or other payment made illegally or unlawfully to someone as a reward for facilitating or promoting a particular transaction or arrangement, especially a bribe or commission; a sudden reaction or backward motion caused by a force
99. overcome cla\_\_\_\_\_bia *n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces
100. en\_\_\_\_\_s gaze *adj.* feeling or showing envy, which is the desire to have or possess something that belongs to someone else, often accompanied by a feeling of resentment or discontent; characterized by jealousy
101. the blue-blooded ari\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a group of persons with high social status
102. the pl\_\_\_\_\_ne of a story *n.* a sequence of events that make up a story or the main theme of a literary work
103. academic sn\_\_\_\_\_ry *n.* the behavior or attitude of a person who believes they are superior to others because of their social status, wealth, or education and who looks down on those they consider inferior

ANSWERS: 95. authoritarian, 96. nuanced, 97. contemplate, 98. kickback, 99. claustrophobia, 100. envious, 101. aristocracy, 102. plotline, 103. snobbery



104. se\_\_e a person's property      *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
105. academic re\_\_\_n      *n.* widespread recognition or fame for someone or something; the state of being highly respected or admired
106. self-proclaimed wor\_\_\_\_\_ic      *n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively
107. tra\_\_\_\_\_ent joy      *adj.* going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime
108. mer\_\_\_\_\_tic society      *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
109. persuade a dis\_\_\_\_\_er      *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
110. ex\_\_\_\_\_ry customer service      *adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow
111. tra\_\_\_\_\_ent wisdom      *adj.* going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime
112. cast fri\_\_\_\_\_ng eyes      *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
113. e\_\_y his success      *v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

ANSWERS: 104. seize, 105. renown, 106. workaholic, 107. transcendent, 108. meritocratic, 109. disbeliever, 110. exemplary, 111. transcendent, 112. frightening, 113. envy

114. aut\_\_\_\_\_ian government      *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
115. cla\_\_\_\_\_bia-inducing      *n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces
116. im\_\_\_\_\_te behavior      *adj.* lacking good manners or courteousness; rude; showing a lack of respect for social conventions or established customs

ANSWERS: 114. authoritarian, 115. claustrophobia, 116. impolite

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The magic tricks \_\_\_\_\_ the children.  
*v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
2. An ethic of \_\_\_\_\_ encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.  
*n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
3. Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a \_\_\_\_\_ goal.  
*adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.  
*adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
5. The singer has gained international \_\_\_\_\_ for her powerful voice and emotional performances.  
*n.* widespread recognition or fame for someone or something; the state of being highly respected or admired
6. She was \_\_\_\_\_ of her friend's success in the stock market.  
*adj.* feeling or showing envy, which is the desire to have or possess something that belongs to someone else, often accompanied by a feeling of resentment or discontent; characterized by jealousy
7. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to talk with your mouth full at the dinner table.  
*adj.* lacking good manners or courteousness; rude; showing a lack of respect for social conventions or established customs

ANSWERS: 1. fascinated, 2. individualism, 3. materialistic, 4. politely, 5. renown, 6. envious, 7. impolite

8. The fairy's spell \_\_\_\_\_ the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.  
*v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.  
*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
10. The businessman was involved in a \_\_\_\_\_ scheme, receiving illegal payments in exchange for favorable contracts.  
*n.* a sum of money or other payment made illegally or unlawfully to someone as a reward for facilitating or promoting a particular transaction or arrangement, especially a bribe or commission; a sudden reaction or backward motion caused by a force
11. Despite his popularity among the \_\_\_\_\_ he was unpopular with the general public.  
*n.* a group of persons with high social status
12. He's a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to music and only listens to classical.  
*n.* a person who believes themselves to be socially superior or of a higher class than others, often looking down on or criticizing those perceived as inferior or less cultured
13. The news of the pandemic was a \_\_\_\_\_ reminder of the fragility of human health.  
*adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
14. Sometimes it is challenging to \_\_\_\_\_ science and religion.  
*v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist

ANSWERS: 8. enchanted, 9. devoted, 10. kickback, 11. aristocracy, 12. snob, 13. frightening, 14. reconcile

15. Despite the evidence, she remained a \_\_\_\_\_ in the theory of evolution.  
*n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
16. I asked the lawyer to initiate \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a serious threat to the farm's output.  
*n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
18. I can't help but \_\_\_\_\_ my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.  
*v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
19. He has the superpower to \_\_\_\_\_ a business opportunity.  
*v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
20. He was born into a lower \_\_\_\_\_ and faced discrimination throughout his life.  
*n.* a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society
21. The sommelier can distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ variance in the flavor of the wine.  
*adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
22. The book's \_\_\_\_\_ was full of twists and turns that kept the reader engaged.  
*n.* a sequence of events that make up a story or the main theme of a literary work

ANSWERS: 15. disbeliever, 16. creditor, 17. moth, 18. envy, 19. seize, 20. caste, 21. nuanced, 22. plotline

23. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ice age have shaped Fjord.
- n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
24. She sought \_\_\_\_\_ to understand her childhood traumas.
- n.* a system of psychological theory and therapy that aims to treat mental and emotional disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind
25. The \_\_\_ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
- adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
26. The company's hiring process was \_\_\_\_\_ with no objective criteria or standards.
- adj.* marked by a lack of order, system, or coherence; characterized by randomness or chance without any guiding principle or plan
27. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered \_\_\_\_\_ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.
- adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
28. As tectonic plates \_\_\_\_\_ new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.
- v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
29. \_\_\_\_\_ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.
- n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

ANSWERS: 23. glaciers, 24. psychoanalysis, 25. aft, 26. haphazard, 27. passe, 28. diverge, 29. Sociologist

30. I'm easily moved to tears, so I would \_\_\_\_\_ in sympathy if I saw that movie.  
*v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
31. She tends to \_\_\_\_\_ on small details, often losing sight of the bigger picture.  
*v.* to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image
32. Exposure to \_\_\_\_\_ in drinking water can cause serious health problems.  
*n.* a poisonous chemical element that occurs naturally in some rocks and minerals and is sometimes used in pesticides and wood preservatives
33. She suffered from \_\_\_\_\_ and couldn't take elevators.  
*n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces
34. She wore her favorite pair of \_\_\_\_\_ to the party.  
*n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
35. The hawkish \_\_\_\_\_ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.  
*n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
36. 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
37. The grieving widow found \_\_\_\_\_ in reading her late husband's letters.  
*n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

ANSWERS: 30. weep, 31. fixate, 32. arsenic, 33. claustrophobia, 34. jeans, 35. senator, 36. ridicule, 37. solace

38. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior led him to steal from the company.

*adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

39. The \_\_\_\_\_ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

*adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

40. The \_\_\_\_\_ newspaper always covers sensational stories.

*adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

41. Bungee jumping was an \_\_\_\_\_ experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

*adj.* making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

42. After much deliberation, the committee finally \_\_\_\_\_ to the workers' demands.

*v.* to agree to a request, demand, or proposal; to give in to someone's opinion or desire; to assume a position of power or authority, especially after the death or retirement of a predecessor

43. Strikes had also \_\_\_\_\_ the preceding weeks.

*v.* to insert punctuation marks (= comma, period, colon, etc.) in the text; to interrupt periodically

44. The company prides itself on being \_\_\_\_\_ in its hiring and promotion practices.

*adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements

ANSWERS: 38. greedy, 39. authoritarian, 40. tabloid, 41. exhilarating, 42. acceded, 43. punctuated, 44. meritocratic



45. The ants were busy building an \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden.
- n.* a mound or hill made by a colony of ants, often as a nest or shelter, which can vary in size and shape depending on the species of ant and the surrounding environment
46. I recently \_\_\_\_\_ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.
- v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
47. Generally speaking, men have a shorter \_\_\_\_\_ than women.
- n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
48. In his speech, he \_\_\_\_\_ a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.
- v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
49. it is \_\_\_\_\_ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
- adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
50. Her \_\_\_\_\_ and pretentious behavior made it difficult for her to make friends.
- n.* the behavior or attitude of a person who believes they are superior to others because of their social status, wealth, or education and who looks down on those they consider inferior
51. The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church

ANSWERS: 45. anthill, 46. contemplated, 47. lifespan, 48. quoted, 49. paradoxical, 50. snobbery, 51. hamlet

52. The \_\_\_\_ security measures allowed the thief to enter the building easily.

*adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient

53. The \_\_\_\_\_ beauty of the Grand Canyon took his breath away.

*adj.* going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime

54. \_\_\_\_\_ I know the answer to that question.

*adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing

55. The company's founder was a notorious \_\_\_\_\_ who spent every waking hour building the business.

*n.* a person who is addicted to work; a person who works excessively

56. He exhibited exceptional and \_\_\_\_\_ bravery.

*adj.* setting a positive example for others to follow

57. The minority \_\_\_\_ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

*n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

58. The sheep were tagged with numbered plastic \_\_\_\_ in their ears.

*n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object

ANSWERS: 52. lax, 53. transcendent, 54. Incidentally, 55. workaholic, 56. exemplary, 57. sect, 58. pegs