

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Bruce Bueno de Mesquita: A prediction for the future of Iran | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/bruce\\_bueno\\_de\\_mesquita\\_a\\_prediction\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_iran](https://www.ted.com/talks/bruce_bueno_de_mesquita_a_prediction_for_the_future_of_iran)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### guesswork

*n.* the act or process of making an estimate or speculation based on incomplete or uncertain information; conjecture or supposition

*synonym*: speculation, conjecture, estimation

(1) pure **guesswork**, (2) rely on **guesswork**

Making decisions based on **guesswork** can lead to costly mistakes.

### situ

*adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

*synonym*: situational, contextual, circumstantial

(1) ex- **situ** conservation, (2) in- **situ** control

Melanoma in **situ** is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

### coercion

*n.* the use of force, threats, or intimidation to persuade someone to do something against their will; the practice of controlling or manipulating someone through the use of power or authority

*synonym*: pressure, force, compulsion

(1) **coercion** through force, (2) physical **coercion**

The government used **coercion** to force citizens to comply

with pandemic restrictions.

## speculate

*v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

*synonym*: assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

## numb

*adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

*synonym*: dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

## pretension

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

*synonym*: presumption, pretense, affectation

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

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

## someplace

*adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location

*synonym*: somewhere, anywhere, wherever

(1) from **someplace** deep inside, (2) **someplace** quiet

Let's go **someplace** new and try something we have not done before.

## fickle

*adj.* liable to change frequently or unexpectedly, often without reason; capricious or unsteady

*synonym*: capricious, unpredictable, inconsistent

(1) **fickle** opinion, (2) **fickle** mood

The weather can be quite **fickle** in this region, changing rapidly and unpredictably.

## schizophrenia

*n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

*synonym* : psychosis, disorder, mental illness

(1) **schizophrenia** spectrum disorder, (2) **schizophrenia** treatment

The **schizophrenia** patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.

## pollutant

*n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil

*synonym* : contaminant, toxic substance

(1) noxious **pollutant**, (2) water **pollutant**

The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant **pollutant** in the area.

## exhort

*v.* to strongly encourage or urge someone to do something; to give advice or admonition with urgency or passion

*synonym* : urge, encourage, persuade

(1) **exhort** to action, (2) **exhort** him to be honest

The motivational speaker tried to **exhort** the audience to reach their full potential.

## pinnacle

*n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

*synonym* : summit, peak, apex

(1) architectural **pinnacle**, (2) reached the **pinnacle**

Climbing to the **pinnacle** of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.

## sally

*n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark

*synonym* : sortie, charge, wisecrack

(1) **sally** of wit, (2) **sally** port

The protesters made a sudden **sally** into the town square, surprising everyone.

**doe** *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

*synonym*: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

**factoid** *n.* something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true

(1) an attention-grabbing **factoid**, (2) wacky **factoid**

We talked about an interesting **factoid** in today's newspaper.

**classify** *v.* to categorize or group something according to a system or set of criteria; to assign something to a particular class or category based on its characteristics or properties

*synonym*: categorize, sort, arrange

(1) **classify** images, (2) **classify** emails into folders

I need to **classify** these documents for the upcoming audit.

**clout** *n.* influence or power, especially political or social influence; a strong force or impact

*synonym*: influence, power, sway

(1) **clout** in politics, (2) social media **clout**

The CEO has enough **clout** to change the company's legacy policies.

**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.

## blaze

*v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously

*synonym*: burn, flame, ignite

(1) **blaze** a trail, (2) **blaze** with fury

The forest fire continued to **blaze** out of control, threatening nearby homes.

## chant

*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

*synonym*: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

## theocracy

*n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance

*synonym*: ecclesiocracy, priest-dominated state

(1) Christian **theocracy**, (2) modern **theocracy**

The **theocracy** debate has taken center stage in many academic circles due to the rise of religious movements worldwide.

## posit

*v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

*synonym*: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

## nationalist

*adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country

*synonym*: chauvinist, patriotic, jingoist

(1) **nationalist** sentiment, (2) **nationalist** revolt

The **nationalist** rally attracted thousands of supporters.

**banker**

*n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank

*synonym*: dealer, broker, financier

(1) central **bankers**, (2) investment **banker**

**Bankers** are only willing to lend with good security.

**bazaar**

*n.* marketplace, especially one in the Middle East

*synonym*: market, fair, trading post

(1) a charity **bazaar**, (2) a church **bazaar**

The **bazaar** market was filled with colorful stalls selling goods from all over the world.

**mullah**

*n.* an Islamic religious leader or teacher

*synonym*: cleric, priest, imam

(1) the wife of a **mullah**, (2) **mullah** leader

The **mullahs** in the country have been accused of using their religious authority to justify acts of terrorism.

**unhealthy**

*adj.* not conducive to good health; detrimental to physical or mental well-being

*synonym*: unwholesome, detrimental, insalubrious

(1) **unhealthy** diet, (2) **unhealthy** habit

Sitting for long hours in front of the computer is considered **unhealthy**.

**confuse**

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym*: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

**ponder**

*v.* to think deeply or carefully about something

*synonym*: think about, consider, reflect on

(1) **ponder** divine matters, (2) **ponder** life's meaning

She sat quietly, **pondering** the difficult decision.

## hasten

v. to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up

*synonym* : accelerate, hurry, rush

(1) **hasten** the process, (2) **hasten** the arrival

I need to **hasten** my speed to finish the race on time.

## sanction

n. official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

*synonym* : approve, authorize, endorse

(1) Imperial **sanction**, (2) popular **sanction**

The government imposed economic **sanctions** on the country.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. cl\_\_\_\_fy emails into folders  
*v.* to categorize or group something according to a system or set of criteria; to assign something to a particular class or category based on its characteristics or properties
2. pure gu\_\_\_\_\_rk  
*n.* the act or process of making an estimate or speculation based on incomplete or uncertain information; conjecture or supposition
3. un\_\_\_\_\_hy diet  
*adj.* not conducive to good health; detrimental to physical or mental well-being
4. water po\_\_\_\_\_nt  
*n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
5. co\_\_\_\_\_on through force  
*n.* the use of force, threats, or intimidation to persuade someone to do something against their will; the practice of controlling or manipulating someone through the use of power or authority
6. from so\_\_\_\_\_ce deep inside  
*adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location
7. baseless pre\_\_\_\_\_on  
*n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 1. classify, 2. guesswork, 3. unhealthy, 4. pollutant, 5. coercion, 6. someplace, 7. pretension



8. wacky fa\_\_\_\_d *n.* something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true
9. Imperial sa\_\_\_\_on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
10. sa\_\_y port *n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
11. in-s\_\_u control *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
12. Christian th\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
13. cl\_\_\_\_fy images *v.* to categorize or group something according to a system or set of criteria; to assign something to a particular class or category based on its characteristics or properties
14. fi\_\_\_e opinion *adj.* liable to change frequently or unexpectedly, often without reason; capricious or unsteady
15. co\_\_\_\_e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
16. pre\_\_\_\_on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 8. factoid, 9. sanction, 10. sally, 11. situ, 12. theocracy, 13. classify, 14. fickle, 15. confuse, 16. pretension

17. so\_\_\_\_\_ce quiet *adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location
18. buck and d\_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
19. sch\_\_\_\_\_nia treatment *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
20. architectural pi\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
21. a church ba\_\_\_\_r *n.* marketplace, especially one in the Middle East
22. po\_\_\_\_r divine matters *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
23. nat\_\_\_\_\_st sentiment *adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
24. ha\_\_\_\_n the process *v.* to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up
25. d\_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

ANSWERS: 17. someplace, 18. doe, 19. schizophrenia, 20. pinnacle, 21. bazaar, 22. ponder, 23. nationalist, 24. hasten, 25. doe

26. reached the pi\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
27. noxious po\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
28. sp\_\_\_\_\_te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
29. bl\_\_e a trail *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
30. po\_\_\_r life's meaning *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
31. ex\_\_\_t to action *v.* to strongly encourage or urge someone to do something; to give advice or admonition with urgency or passion
32. investment ba\_\_\_r *n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank
33. sch\_\_\_\_\_nia spectrum disorder *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
34. n\_\_b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
35. an attention-grabbing fa\_\_\_\_\_d *n.* something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true

ANSWERS: 26. pinnacle, 27. pollutant, 28. speculate, 29. blaze, 30. ponder, 31. exhort, 32. banker, 33. schizophrenia, 34. numb, 35. factoid

36. a charity ba\_\_\_r *n.* marketplace, especially one in the Middle East
37. popular sa\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
38. fi\_\_\_e mood *adj.* liable to change frequently or unexpectedly, often without reason; capricious or unsteady
39. central ba\_\_\_rs *n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank
40. physical co\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the use of force, threats, or intimidation to persuade someone to do something against their will; the practice of controlling or manipulating someone through the use of power or authority
41. cl\_\_t in politics *n.* influence or power, especially political or social influence; a strong force or impact
42. po\_\_t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
43. sa\_\_y of wit *n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
44. ex\_\_\_t him to be honest *v.* to strongly encourage or urge someone to do something; to give advice or admonition with urgency or passion

ANSWERS: 36. bazaar, 37. sanction, 38. fickle, 39. banker, 40. coercion, 41. clout, 42. posit, 43. sally, 44. exhort

45. mu\_\_\_h leader *n.* an Islamic religious leader or teacher
46. ch\_\_t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
47. ex-s\_\_u conservation *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
48. the wife of a mu\_\_\_h *n.* an Islamic religious leader or teacher
49. bl\_\_e with fury *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
50. modern th\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
51. a n\_\_b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
52. un\_\_\_\_\_hy habit *adj.* not conducive to good health; detrimental to physical or mental well-being
53. sp\_\_\_\_\_te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
54. co\_\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
55. social media cl\_\_t *n.* influence or power, especially political or social influence; a strong force or impact

ANSWERS: 45. mullah, 46. chant, 47. situ, 48. mullah, 49. blaze, 50. theocracy, 51. numb, 52. unhealthy, 53. speculate, 54. confuse, 55. clout

56. po\_\_t the premise  
*v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
57. nat\_\_\_\_\_st revolt  
*adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
58. the cr\_\_\_\_or's claims  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
59. ha\_\_\_n the arrival  
*v.* to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up
60. rely on gu\_\_\_\_\_rk  
*n.* the act or process of making an estimate or speculation based on incomplete or uncertain information; conjecture or supposition
61. ch\_\_t melodies  
*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
62. bankrupt cr\_\_\_\_or  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 56. posit, 57. nationalist, 58. creditor, 59. hasten, 60. guesswork, 61. chant, 62. creditor

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ market was filled with colorful stalls selling goods from all over the world.  
*n.* marketplace, especially one in the Middle East
2. The protesters made a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ into the town square, surprising everyone.  
*n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
3. Making decisions based on \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to costly mistakes.  
*n.* the act or process of making an estimate or speculation based on incomplete or uncertain information; conjecture or supposition
4. Sitting for long hours in front of the computer is considered \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* not conducive to good health; detrimental to physical or mental well-being
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ debate has taken center stage in many academic circles due to the rise of religious movements worldwide.  
*n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
6. I asked the lawyer to initiate \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.  
*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
7. The CEO has enough \_\_\_\_\_ to change the company's legacy policies.  
*n.* influence or power, especially political or social influence; a strong force or impact
8. \_\_\_\_\_ are only willing to lend with good security.  
*n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank

ANSWERS: 1. bazaar, 2. sally, 3. guesswork, 4. unhealthy, 5. theocracy, 6. creditor, 7. clout, 8. Bankers

9. We talked about an interesting \_\_\_\_\_ in today's newspaper.
- n.* something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true
10. Climbing to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.
- n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
11. The government used \_\_\_\_\_ to force citizens to comply with pandemic restrictions.
- n.* the use of force, threats, or intimidation to persuade someone to do something against their will; the practice of controlling or manipulating someone through the use of power or authority
12. The soccer game crowd broke into a \_\_\_\_\_ of "Go, team, go!"
- n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
13. We should \_\_\_\_\_ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
- v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
14. The government imposed economic \_\_\_\_\_ on the country.
- n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
15. The forest fire continued to \_\_\_\_\_ out of control, threatening nearby homes.
- v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously

ANSWERS: 9. factoid, 10. pinnacle, 11. coercion, 12. chant, 13. posit, 14. sanctions, 15. blaze



16. The weather can be quite \_\_\_\_\_ in this region, changing rapidly and unpredictably.  
*adj.* liable to change frequently or unexpectedly, often without reason; capricious or unsteady
17. Hunters use a whistle that makes the \_\_\_\_ sound to lure stags.  
*n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
18. The motivational speaker tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the audience to reach their full potential.  
*v.* to strongly encourage or urge someone to do something; to give advice or admonition with urgency or passion
19. His \_\_\_\_\_ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.  
*n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.  
*n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the country have been accused of using their religious authority to justify acts of terrorism.  
*n.* an Islamic religious leader or teacher
22. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ these documents for the upcoming audit.  
*v.* to categorize or group something according to a system or set of criteria; to assign something to a particular class or category based on its characteristics or properties

ANSWERS: 16. fickle, 17. doe, 18. exhort, 19. pretensions, 20. schizophrenia, 21. mullahs, 22. classify

23. The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant \_\_\_\_\_ in the area.  
*n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
24. She sat quietly, \_\_\_\_\_ the difficult decision.  
*v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
25. Melanoma in \_\_\_\_\_ is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.  
*adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
26. My left arm became \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
27. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ my speed to finish the race on time.  
*v.* to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up
28. He \_\_\_\_\_ that this investment would lead to success.  
*v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
29. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
30. The \_\_\_\_\_ rally attracted thousands of supporters.  
*adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country

ANSWERS: 23. pollutant, 24. pondering, 25. situ, 26. numb, 27. hasten, 28. speculated, 29. confused, 30. nationalist

31. Let's go \_\_\_\_\_ new and try something we have not done before.

*adv.* somewhere without specifying a particular or exact location

ANSWERS: 31. someplace