

ESL Master presents:

## Advanced English Vocabulary

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If you are a **teacher**, feel free to use exercises from this e-book to prepare lessons and/or as a homework for your students.

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In this e-book I've introduced **two types of vocabulary exercises** (with **answers** on page 12):

1. Based on my own „**to learn**” lists (in PART I. – page 2 onwards)
2. Based on articles from **Newsweek.com**. This means that you can read the news and improve your English at the same time (in PART II. – page 8 onwards)

This is only a selection of exercises available at <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>, which is a **weekly updated website** devoted to learning English. Exercises are intended for advanced students and might be particularly helpful for those preparing for **Cambridge ESOL exams, IELTS or TOEFL**.

Good luck! :)

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

## PART I. Vocabulary exercises

### Exercise #1

Complete blank spaces.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. an unexpected change in sth   | _AG_RY    |
| 2. to maintain (a theory or a thought)                                     | H_RBO_    |
| 3. in a similar way  | _N K_N_   |
| 4. beyond normal limits  | U_D_E     |
| 5. the money risked on gamble  | _AG_R     |
| 6. a facility providing housing for<br>poor and homeless at public expense | _OO_H_U_E |
| 7. depressing  | D_S_AL    |
| 8. rising again as to a new life   | R_S_RG_NT |
| 9. accuse formally of a crime  | _NDI_T    |
| 10. give support or approval   | E_D_RS_   |

**Exercise #2**

Please replace expressions in bold with a word from the list.

1. I **feel remorse** for my sins.
2. In my opinion you should **stay away from** her.
3. I pity Steven. Everybody knows he is **extremely unsuccessful**.
4. **Making out** with my boyfriend is my best treat after work.
5. We can always count on our **fervent** supporters.
6. Take it. It will **alleviate** your pain.
7. Out of a sudden our relationship started **losing its freshness**.
8. Stop **pestering** that poor boy! badgering
9. Sometimes I envy Mark's **natural talent** for giving **improptu** speeches.
10. I really think that this severe criticism wasn't **well deserved**.

**List of words:**

ardent  
withering  
endowment  
eschew  
repent  
assuage  
badgering  
extemporaneous  
a dud  
smooching  
gratuitous

**Exercise #3**

Choose one option a, b or c.

1. When something is **tenously linked/related**, it is:

- a) directly connected
- b) strongly connected
- c) remotely connected

2. A **salvage operation** is one that is supposed to:

- a) rescue
- b) bring answers
- c) set up a business

3. To **shed** sth is to:

- a) catch it
- b) hide it
- c) get rid of it

4. When an idea is **opaque** it usually is:

- a) unreasonable
- b) difficult to understand
- c) brilliant

5. To **exacerbate** things is to:

- a) explain them in a detailed manner
- b) make them worse
- c) carefully examine them

6. When someone **promises you something that isn't very likely to happen**, you know that this promise is:

- a) a pie in the sky
- b) a bird in the sky
- c) a bird in the clouds

7. When you **wrangle** you are:

- a) stuck in a hopeless situation
- b) suffering from a loss
- c) quarrelling angrily

8. When something is going on **apace** it is happening:

- a) consecutively
- b) quickly
- c) as planned

9. When you abandon a **pretence** you:

- a) stop giving a false appearance

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- b) stop being angry with someone
- c) stop behaving irresponsibly

10. Tom's **propensity** to live beyond his means is his:

- a) bad habit
- b) natural tendency
- c) urge that he cannot control

**Exercise #4**

**Choose only one correct answer.**

1. To **crack knuckles** is to:

- a) break bones
- b) be pestering
- c) pop joints

2. When you **shell out** \$500 you:

- a) keep it for later use
- b) pay or hand over half a grand
- c) spend it freely

3. If sth **saps** your strengths it

- a) drains your power
- b) revives you
- c) helps you develop your skills

4. When you say that you have to put up with the **incessant** noise you mean that:

- a) the noise is causing you a headache
- b) the noise never stops
- c) the noise is usually harmless

5. When your perception is **skewed** it is:

- a) distorted
- b) very accurate
- c) working very fast

6. If your doctor wants you to **avoid** alcohol, he should tell you to:

- a) abstain from it
- b) revel in it
- c) wolf it down

7. When you sit in a **reclining position**, your upper body is

- a) leaning forward
- b) leaning backward
- c) straight

8. If a man in a suit wants to **peddle** you something, he would like to:

- a) offer you a gift
- b) bring it to you by bike
- c) sell it

**Exercise #5a****Match words with their definitions.**

brevity	acceptable
denote	capable of being perceived clearly
discernible	any means of control
emulate	get enjoyment from
inadvertently	imitate
menial	mean, be a sign of
palatable	referring to unskilled work
rein	remotely
relish	the use of brief expressions
tangentially	without knowledge or intention

**Exercise #5b****Fill the blank spaces with the words from Exercise 1.**

1. Although I knew the meaning of every single word, the message that they conveyed wasn't that easily .....
2. Celebrities who ..... their fame drive me nuts!
3. Her smile could only ..... happiness.
4. I admit that my wife is the one who holds the .....s in our marriage.
5. I'm terribly sorry! I really did this .....
6. Let it go! This evidence isn't even ..... related to the case.
7. Only several people offered a ..... solution.
8. Peter is known for his .....
9. Washing up is the most ..... task ever!
10. When he was 5 he was trying to ..... his father in everything he was doing.

## PART II. Article-based exercises

First go to <http://www.newsweek.com/id/167733/> and read an article there. After you've finished, proceed to Exercise #6.

### Exercise #6

From which part of the text come the following statements?

Select

- A for Poland
- B for Japan
- C for Russia
- D for Turkey
- E for Argentina

1. .... common military project can improve relationships between two countries
2. .... election day coincided with an important announcement
3. .... they can win as a country if they follow Obama's motto
4. .... a country concerned by America's policy towards the whole continent
5. .... author enumerates issues which contribute to pessimistic attitude of the society
6. .... has counterparts of the most popular political marriage in USA
7. .... author celebrated Obama's victory with officials
8. ...., ...., .... US election was of no major concern there
9. .... if Obama walks his talk he can gain more support there
10. .... this country can already use US as an example
11. .... in its port Obama can feel at home
12. .... hints to similarities between two country leaders and their attitudes
13. .... can be perceived as a part of United States
14. .... media was electrified by the election
15. .... Obama's motto has become a part of pop culture
16. .... the importance of election was dwarfed by national concerns

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/167733/>

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

First go to <http://www.newsweek.com/id/142672> and read an article there. After you've finished, do the following exercises.

### Exercise #7a

Find synonyms. Each number indicates the number of the paragraph.

- 2# typicality      tore      capital  
 3# meticulously  
 6# coming after the culmination      finale      humiliated  
 7# penetrate  
 8# shifted  
 9# approaching  
 13# disappearing      lodgings  
 14# cope      unveil  
 15# too-generously  
 18# a written message  
 20# meeting      a central idea  
 22# stepping

### Exercise #7b

What does it mean? Again each number indicates the number of the paragraph.

- 4# It doesn't compute.  
 a) It is ridiculous.  
 b) It's difficult to ignore.  
 c) It's unconceivable.

- 5# to hold the bag  
 a) be in charge of  
 b) to raise capital  
 c) to discriminate someone

In paragraph 16# Gates suggests that

- a) he will spend more time working for Microsoft than agreed  
 b) he won't care about Microsoft that much  
 c) he will spend less time working for Microsoft than agreed

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/142672>

First go to <http://www.newsweek.com/id/172561/> and read an article there, you may find a glossary below particularly helpful. After you've finished, proceed to Exercise #8.

### Glossary + useful links

**Methuselah** – a biblical character who supposedly lived 969 years ([more](#))

**Juan Ponce de León** – a Spanish conquistador who lived from 1474 to 1521 associated with the legend of the Fountain of Youth ([more about him](#); [more about the Fountain](#))

**longevity-bestowing** – offering a prolonged life duration

**downright** – used as an intensifier

**quixotic** – unrealistic, impractical

**supercentenarian** – (mispronounced in the text) someone who has reached the age of 110 or more; while **centenarian** is of course someone over 100 ([more](#))

**Mack truck** - one of the world's leading truck-manufacturing companies, part of Volvo Group ([more](#))

**rhesus monkeys** – ([more](#))

**fall short** – fail to meet (expectations, standards)

**lest** – for fear that

**rev up** – speed up

**fizzle out** – end weakly

**telomere** - ([more](#))

**lung fibrosis** – ([more](#))

All of the links will take you to an English version of Wikipedia. Oftentimes you will have your native version of the same article or a version in simple English. If you don't understand something, feel free to switch :)

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

**Exercise #8**

**Below you've got a list of words taken from the text with numbers indicating at a proper paragraph. Match them with their explanations in the box. Additionally, try to find the synonyms of some of the words (given in capital letters with blank spaces).**

- 1# flabby
- 1# sluggish
- 1# tinker
  
- 2# elusive
- 2# quack
  
- 2# hawk
  
- 2# unravel
  
- 3# strain
- 3# tack
  
- 5# defy
  
- 8# pang
  
- 9# inflammation
  
- 10# hinder
  
- 11# crumple
- 11# much-heralded
- 11# skinny
- 11# lean
  
- 14# blockbuster
- 14# forestall
  
- 16# battery
- 16# gauge

an unusually successful hit; M\_G\_H\_T  
 a response of body tissues to injury or irritation characterized by pain and swelling and redness and heat; R\_D\_ES\_  
 a sudden sharp feeling  
 an untrained person dispensing medical advice  
 difficult to detect, grasp; \_U\_T\_E  
 difficulty that causes worry or emotional tension; B\_R\_E\_  
 do random, unplanned work; \_I\_D\_E  
 fall apart, destroy  
 fix to, attach; \_PP\_N\_  
 keep from hapenning; \_RE\_E\_T  
 lacking excess flesh; \_HI\_  
 lacking firmness or stiffness  
*literally*: separate the fibers or threads of sth; \_IS\_N\_A\_G\_E  
 measure precisely usually against a standard  
 prevent the progress of sth; \_LO\_K  
 resist; \_I\_H\_T\_N\_  
 slow and apathetic; \_N\_C\_I\_E  
 unattractive thinness; \_ND\_R\_E\_G\_T  
 widely announced

**Source:** <http://www.newsweek.com/id/172561/>

**Find more at:** <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

First go to <http://www.newsweek.com/id/175908> and read an article there, you may find a glossary below particularly helpful. After you've finished, proceed to Exercise #9.

### Glossary

**to put a crimp in** – to interfere with

**taper off** - become smaller or less active

**to get a lift** – to be improved

**put your needs on a back burner** – to give your needs low priority

**boomerang kid** (also *boomeranger*) - any young person who comes back home to live with their parents after a period of independence (usually while attending college)

**condo** – a dwelling unit ([more](#))

### Exercise #9

#### Match the synonyms

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1. elated   | blessing                                |
| 2. hubbub   | disturb, upset                          |
| 3. abruptly | embrace, adopt                          |
| 4. bereft   | jubilant                                |
| 5. sweep up | sorrowful (through loss or deprivation) |
| 6. backing  | stifle, mute                            |
| 7. jolt     | suddenly                                |
| 8. dampen   | support                                 |
| 9. detached | tumult                                  |
| 10. boon    | uninvolved                              |

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/175908>

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

## PART III. Answers

### Exercise #1

1. VAGARY
2. HARBOR
3. IN KIND
4. UNDUE
5. WAGER
6. POORHOUSE
7. DISMAL
8. RESURGENT
9. INDICT
10. ENDORSE

### Exercise #2

1. repent
2. eschew
3. a dud
4. smooching
5. ardent
6. assuage
7. withering
8. badgering
9. endowment, extemporaneous
10. gratuitous

### Exercise #3

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. b
6. a
7. c
8. b
9. a
10. b

### Exercise #4

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. b
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. c

### Exercise #5a

**brevity** – the use of brief expressions

**denote** – mean, be a sign of

**discernible** – capable of being perceived clearly

**emulate** – imitate

**inadvertently** – without knowledge or intention

**menial** – referring to unskilled work

**palatable** – acceptable

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

**rein** – any means of control  
**relish** – get enjoyment from  
**tangentially** – remotely

### Exercise #5b

1. discernible
2. relish
3. denote
4. rein
5. inadvertently
6. tangentially
7. palatable
8. brevity
9. menial
10. emulate

### Exercise #6

1. A
2. C
3. E
4. B
5. C
6. E
7. A
8. C, D, E
9. C
10. D
11. B
12. C
13. A
14. A
15. B
16. E

### Exercise #7a

**2#** normalcy      shredded      endowment  
**3#** painstakingly  
**6#** anticlimactic      coda      humbled  
**7#** permeate  
**8#** budged  
**9#** forthcoming  
**13#** falling off the face of the earth      digs  
**14#** grapple      roll out  
**15#** unstintingly  
**18#** missive  
**20#** converging      keynote  
**22#** treading

### Exercise #7b

c, a, a

### Exercise #8

**flabby** – lacking firmness or stiffness  
**sluggish** – slow and apathetic; INACTIVE  
**tinker** – do random, unplanned work; FIDDLE  
**elusive** – difficult to detect, grasp; SUBTLE  
**quack** – an untrained person dispensing medical advice

Find more at: <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

**hawk** – sell or offer for sale; VEND

**unravel** – *literally*: separate the fibers or threads of sth; DISENTANGLE

**strain** – difficulty that causes worry or emotional tension; BURDEN

**tack** – fix to, attach; APPEND

**defy** – resist; WITHSTAND

**pang** – a sudden sharp feeling

**inflammation** – a response of body tissues to injury or irritation; characterized by pain and swelling and redness and heat; REDNESS

**hinder** – prevent the progress of sth; BLOCK

**crumple** – fall apart, destroy

**much-heralded** – widely announced

**skinny** – unattractive thinness; UNDERWEIGHT

**lean** – lacking excess flesh; THIN

**blockbuster** – an unusually successful hit; MEGAHIT

**forestall** – keep from happening; PREVENT

**battery** – a collection of related things intended to be used together

**gauge** – measure precisely usually against a standard

### Exercise #9

1. **elated** – jubilant, in high spirits

2. **hubbub** – tumult

3. **abruptly** – suddenly

4. **bereft** – sorrowful through loss or deprivation

5. **sweep up** – embrace, adopt

6. **backing** – support

7. **jolt** – disturb, upset

8. **damped** – stifle, mute

9. **detached** – uninvolved

10. **boon** – blessing

If you don't feel like enough, visit <http://eslmaster.wordpress.com>

I did my best to make the exercises as interesting as possible and free of mistakes, but if you spot a flaw, please [let me know](#).

Thanks, Rafal :-)