

Words from George Orwell's

1984

Word List 73

ANODYNE, AUREOLE, AUSTERE, CAMARADERIE, COLLATE, DEBAUCHERY, DILAPIDATED, ECCENTRICITY, EFFIGIES, HERETIC, INCRIMINATE, INTERMITTENT, JOSTLE, MALIGNANT, MULTIFARIOUS, OLIGARCHY, ORIFICE, POSTERITY, PROLIFERATE, REPUDIATE, SORDID, TACITLY, TIMOROUSLY, UNPROCURABLE, VENERATE, WAINSCOTING

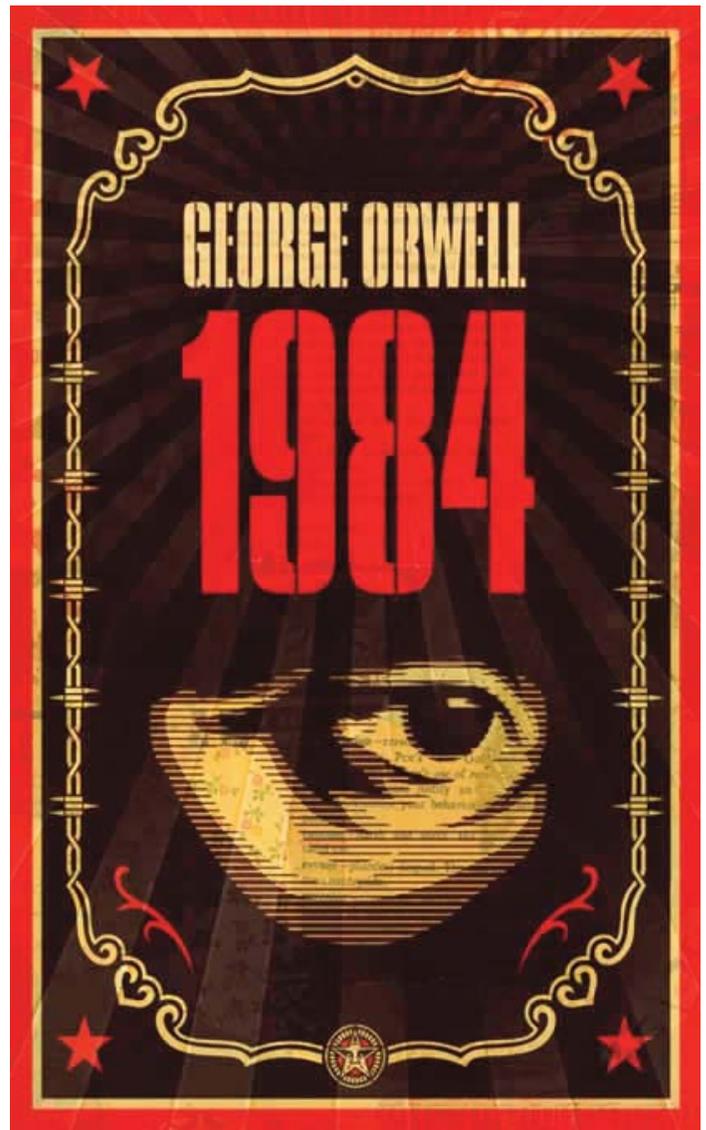
Chapter One of *1984*

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.

The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift-shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**, the caption beneath it ran.

Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig-iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagreness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the party. His hair was very fair, his face naturally sanguine, his skin roughened by coarse soap and blunt razor blades and the cold of the winter that had just ended.

Outside, even through the shut window-pane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no colour in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The blackmoustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner. There was one on the house-front immediately opposite. **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**, the caption said, while the dark eyes looked deep into Winston's own. Down at street



level another poster, torn at one corner, flapped fitfully in the wind, alternately covering and uncovering the single word **INGSOC**. In the far distance a helicopter skimmed down between the roofs, hovered for an instant like a bluebottle, and darted away again with a curving flight. It was the police patrol, snooping into people's windows. The patrols did not matter, however. Only the Thought Police mattered.

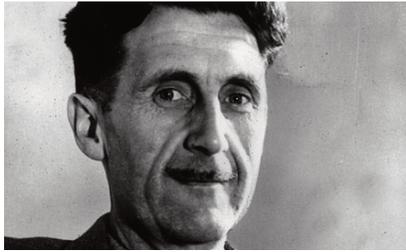
- Orwell, G. (1949). *1984*. Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd.

A Review of 1984 from Chris C. of Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, as posted on the Bookhooks.com website

1984 was one of the most mind-boggling, insightful and scary books I've ever read. George Orwell creates the world of the future, his perspective of what could become of us (a real eye opener), written after WWII and at the beginning of the Cold War. A world with no freedom, no emotion and no hope. A world kept in check by a totalitarian government in its true sense, ruled by a superficial leader called Big Brother. In this world nothing is real, you can not trust anyone, everything is one giant lie, a lie so believed, that it is the truth.

The society consists of the proles, the lower class who are the ma-

majority that the party exploits to remain in power, the outer party who are the educated, but brain-washed minority who carry out the most important jobs, necessary for the party to exist, and the inner party, who are the brain of the dictatorship,



George Orwell

the ones in power. Oceania (former London, England) is the first state where a unbeatable system has been set up. A system where there or no organized protest, no revolutionaries, because these do not exist, the only thing that exists is what the party says exists. A society where $2+2=5$ if the party says so, one that can erase history and rewrite it if they wish. Big Brother controls everything, everybody is being watched, everything has become so routine, so simple, that there is no longer any need for emotion, for education, for communication. A system that takes away everything that mankind has achieved, bit by bit.

The book focuses on Winston's search for the truth, to outsmart the system. He is the last one that believes that $2+2$ does in fact equal 4. But he always knows in the back of his head, that revolution is impossible, that no matter how much he thinks he knows, he will never escape.

This is a very thought-provoking book, one that will have you asking yourself, "What if this really happened?" It reminded me of what is actually important in life, not the superficial makeover that our society is influenced by. This is what scares me, because some of the ideas in 1984 that Orwell expresses I see happening around me all the time. Things that people don't realize, or don't care about. Can you imagine a world where we become so immersed in our day to day life that soon, everything we take for granted, everything we care about, is gone? A society were we are so influenced by the media that we forget what is real? Could it have already happened, exactly like it happened in 1984? Are we not told only what we want to hear? We are the people that still believe that fighting a war in the name of God is justified, that killing someone is alright because they are a "terrorist." This is what scares me the most.

The most interesting part of the book I thought was the end, how the author leaves many questions unanswered so that you're left trying to figure things out. The fact that the last hope for humanity, Winston, eventually becomes victim to the party, and he becomes just another person, with nothing to live for, believing what the party tells him because the party is truth. It sends the message home loud and clear, that a system can exist where nobody can make a difference, one that can't be defeated.

I would recommend this book for anyone who wants a good read, something that will get you thinking. This book reminded me of how important it is to be your own person. To do what you want, and don't let a higher power control you. Stand up for what you believe, before there's nothing left to believe in.

Exercise 73-1 Definitions. Fill in the blank with the best word that matches each definition (26 marks)

1. _____ adj. not likely to provoke dissent or offense; not likely to arouse tension
2. _____ n. circle of light or brightness surrounding something, esp. as depicted in art around the head or body of a person represented as holy
3. _____ adj. severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance
4. _____ n. mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together
5. _____ v. collect and combine (texts, information, or sets of figures) in proper order; compare and analyze (texts or other data)
6. _____ n. excessive indulgence in sensual pleasure
7. _____ adj. of a building or object, that is in a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect
8. _____ n. deviation from an established pattern or norm; odd or whimsical behavior
9. _____ n. an image or representation especially of a person; a crude figure representing a hated person
10. _____ n. one who dissents from an accepted belief or doctrine
11. _____ v. charge with or show evidence or proof of involvement in a crime or fault
12. _____ adj. coming and going at intervals; not continuous
13. _____ v. come in contact or into collision; make one's way by pushing and shoving
14. _____ adj. evil in nature, influence, or effect; tending to produce death or deterioration
15. _____ adj. having or occurring in great variety
16. _____ n. government by the few; a government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes
17. _____ n. an opening (as a vent, mouth, or hole) through which something may pass
18. _____ n. offspring of one progenitor to the furthest generation; all future generations

19. _____ v. grow by rapid production of new parts, cells, buds, or offspring; increase in number
20. _____ v. refuse to have anything to do with
21. _____ adj. marked by baseness or grossness; filthy, vile
22. _____ adv. expressed or carried on without words or speech
23. _____ adv. of a timid disposition
24. _____ adj. not capable of being obtained; unattainable
25. _____ v. 1. To regard with reverential respect or with admiring deference 2. To honour (as an icon or a relic) with a ritual act of devotion
26. _____ n. a fine grade of oak imported for woodwork

Exercise 73-.2 Fill-in-the-Blanks Complete each sentence from the novel with the most appropriate word from those in the word list (26 marks)

1. It was probable that there were some millions of proles for whom the Lottery was the principal if not the only reason for remaining alive. It was their delight, their folly, their _____, their intellectual stimulant.
2. He could never see the face of Goldstein without a painful mixture of emotions. It was a lean Jewish face, with a great fuzzy _____ of white hair and a small goatee beard—a clever face, and yet somehow inherently despicable, with a kind of senile silliness in the long thin nose, near the end of which a pair of spectacles was perched.
3. It is deliberate policy to keep even the favoured groups somewhere near the brink of hardship, because a general state of scarcity increases the importance of small privileges and thus magnifies the distinction between one group and another. By the standards of the early twentieth century, even a member of the Inner Party lives a(n) _____, laborious kind of life.
4. The sky was a warmer blue than he had seen it that year, and suddenly the long, noisy evening at the Centre, the boring, exhausting games, the lectures, the creaking _____ oiled by gin, had seemed intolerable. On impulse he had turned away from the bus stop and wandered off into the labyrinth of London, first south, then east, then north again, losing himself among unknown streets and hardly bothering in which direction he was going.
5. What happened in the unseen labyrinth to which the pneumatic tubes led, he did not know in detail, but he did know in general terms. As soon as all the corrections which happened to be necessary in any particular number of 'The Times' had been assembled and _____, that number would be reprinted, the original

copy destroyed, and the corrected copy placed on the files in its stead.

6. Tacitly the Party was even inclined to encourage prostitution, as an outlet for instincts which could not be altogether suppressed. Mere _____ did not matter very much, so long as it was furtive and joyless and only involved the women of a submerged and despised class.

7. At present, when few human beings even have enough to eat, this problem is obviously not urgent, and it might not have become so, even if no artificial processes of destruction had been at work. The world of today is a bare, hungry, _____ place compared with the world that existed before 1914, and still more so if compared with the imaginary future to which the people of that period looked forward.

8. Nothing that he does is indifferent. His friendships, his relaxations, his behaviour towards his wife and children, the expression of his face when he is alone, the words he mutters in sleep, even the characteristic movements of his body, are all jealously scrutinized. Not only any actual misdemeanour, but any _____, however small, any change of habits, any nervous mannerism that could possibly be the symptom of an inner struggle, is certain to be detected.

9. Processions, meetings, military parades, lectures, waxworks, displays, film shows, telescreen programmes all had to be organized; stands had to be erected, _____ built, slogans coined, songs written, rumours circulated, photographs faked.

10. We are not content with negative obedience, nor even with the most abject submission. When finally you surrender to us, it must be of your own free will. We do not destroy the _____ because he resists us: so long as he resists us we never destroy him.

11. We are thought-criminals. We are also adulterers. I tell you this because we want to put ourselves at your mercy. If you want us to _____ ourselves in any other way, we are ready.'

12. He remembered better the rackety, uneasy circumstances of the time: the periodical panics about air-raids and the sheltering in Tube stations, the piles of rubble everywhere, the unintelligible proclamations posted at street corners, the gangs of youths in shirts all the same colour, the enormous queues outside the bakeries, the _____ machine-gun fire in the distance—above all, the fact that there was never enough to eat.

13. They were wretched, flimsy things, but cooking-pots of any kind were always difficult to get. Now the supply had unexpectedly given out. The successful women, bumped and _____ by the rest, were trying to make off with their saucepans while dozens of others clamoured round the stall, accusing the stall-keeper of favouritism and of having more saucepans somewhere in reserve.

14. He saw now what O'Brien had meant about seeing the side view. The curvature of the spine was astonishing. The thin shoulders were hunched forward so as to make a cavity of the chest, the scraggy neck seemed to be bending double under the weight of the skull. At a guess he would have said that it was the body of a man of sixty, suffering from some _____ disease.

15. And the Ministry had not only to supply the _____ needs of the party, but also to repeat the whole operation at a lower level for the benefit of the proletariat. There was a whole chain of separate departments dealing with proletarian literature, music, drama, and entertainment generally.

16. After the revolutionary period of the fifties and sixties, society regrouped itself, as always, into High, Middle, and Low. But the new High group, unlike all its forerunners, did not act upon instinct but knew what was needed to safeguard its position. It had long been realized that the only secure basis for _____ is collectivism. Wealth and privilege are most easily defended when they are possessed jointly.

17. In the walls of the cubicle there were three _____ To the right of the speakwrite, a small pneumatic tube for written messages, to the left, a larger one for newspapers; and in the side wall, within easy reach of Winston's arm, a large oblong slit protected by a wire grating.

18. All the confessions that are uttered here are true. We make them true. And above all we do not allow the dead to rise up against us. You must stop imagining that _____ will vindicate you, Winston. _____ will never hear of you. You will be lifted clean out from the stream of history.

19. Actually, so far as he could judge, the majority of people in Airstrip One were small, dark, and ill-favoured. It was curious how that beetle-like type _____ in the Ministries: little dumpy men, growing stout very early in life, with short legs, swift scuttling movements, and fat inscrutable faces with very small eyes.

20. To know and not to know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling care- fully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to _____ morality while laying claim to it, to believe that democracy was impossible and that the Party was the guardian of democracy, to forget whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again: and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself.

21. There was a gas ring in the fender, and a shelf where food was kept, and on the landing outside there was a brown earthenware sink, common to several rooms. He remembered his mother's statuesque body bending over the gas ring to stir at something in a saucepan. Above all he remembered his continuous hunger, and the fierce _____ battles at meal-times.

22. Under this lies a fact never mentioned aloud, but _____ understood and acted upon: namely, that the conditions of life in all three super-states are very much the same.

23. Opposite Winston there sat a man with a chinless, toothy face exactly like that of some large, harm- less rodent. His fat, mottled cheeks were so pouched at the bottom that it was difficult not to believe that he had little stores of food tucked away there. His pale-grey eyes flitted _____ from face to face and turned quickly away again when he caught anyone's eye.

24. Many of the disappearances were actually suicides. But it needed desperate courage to kill yourself in a world where firearms, or any quick and certain poison, were completely _____.

25. There was some- thing that he lacked: discretion, aloofness, a sort of saving stupidity. You could not say that he was unorthodox. He believed in the principles of Ingsoc, he _____ Big Brother, he rejoiced over victories, he hated heretics, not merely with sincerity but with a sort of restless zeal, an up-to-dateness of information, which the ordinary Party member did not approach.

26. The passage down which he led them was softly carpeted, with cream- papered walls and white _____, all exquisitely clean.

Exercise 73-3 Synonyms

Provide a synonym of each word (8 marks)

1. repudiate _____
2. unprocurable _____
3. sordid _____
4. austere _____
5. timorously _____
6. jostle _____
7. malignant _____
8. anodyne _____

Exercise 73-4 Antonyms From choices provided, select the word that is the best antonym for the given word (14 marks)

1. a soothing **anodyne** for many of the cares and troubles
a) innocuous b) innocent c) deleterious
2. operating under the **austere** requirements of the EU
a) stern b) easy going c) harsh

3. reinforce the spirit of **camaraderie** and friendship between the institutions

- a) loneliness b) community c) brotherhood

4. scenes of drunken **debauchery** are universally viewed as taboo

- a) depravity b) integrity c) corruption

5. decide the fate today of a long vacant and **dilapidated** building

- a) grungy b) maintained c) run-down

6. genuine **eccentricity** of those who don't realize they are

- a) conformity b) oddity c) peculiarity

7. rivals attempted to **incriminate** her over a land purchase deal

- a) charge b) impeach c) pardon

8. an **intermittent** trial over the span of two years

- a) incessant b) on and off c) periodic

9. His foul old father Max, played with **malignant** relish by Brian Dennehy

- a) nasty b) mean c) compassionate

10. wind whipped dust into every exposed **orifice**

- a) aperture b) stopper c) opening

11. cells lose their ability to **proliferate**

- a) accumulate b) dwindle c) multiply

12. **repudiate** terrorism and peace will follow

- a) acknowledge b) disaffirm c) disallow

13. the tapes are filled with **sordid** information

- a) besmirched b) clean c) dingy

14. Tea partiers **venerate** George Washington

- a) adore b) glorify c) desecrate

Exercise 73-5 Parts of Speech Change the given list word to the part of speech that is indicated (10 marks)

1. _____ adjectival form of *timorously*

2. _____ noun form of *proliferate*

3. _____ adverb form of *sordid*

4. _____ adjectival form of *tacitly*

5. _____ noun form of *repudiate*

6. _____ adjectival form of *orifice*

7. _____ adverb form of *malignant*

8. _____ adjectival form of *incriminate*

9. _____ The noun form of *collate*

10. _____ The noun form of *austere*

Freedom of speech: How '1984' has entrusted our culture

Apart from pop-culture renditions of some of the novel's themes, aspects of its language have been leapt upon by libertarians to describe the curtailment of freedom in the real world by politicians and officials - alarmingly, nowhere and never more often than in contemporary Britain.

Orwellian: George owes his own adjective to this book alone and his idea that wellbeing is crushed by restrictive, authoritarian and untruthful government.

Big Brother (is watching you): A term in common usage for a scarily omniscient ruler long before the worldwide smash-hit reality-TV show was even a twinkle in its producers' eyes. The irony of societal hounding of Big Brother contestants would not have been lost on George Orwell.

Room 101: Some hotels have refused to call a guest bedroom number 101 - rather like those tower blocks that don't have a 13th floor - thanks to the ingenious Orwellian concept of a room that contains whatever its occupant finds most impossible to endure. Like Big Brother, this has spawned a modern TV show: in this case, celebrities are invited to name the people or objects they hate most in the world.

Thought Police: An accusation often levelled at the current government by those who like it least is that they are trying to tell us what we can and cannot think is right and wrong. People who believe that there are correct ways to think find themselves named after Orwell's enforcement brigade.

Thoughtcrime: See "Thought Police" above. The act or fact of transgressing enforced wisdom.

Newspeak: For Orwell, freedom of expression was not just about freedom of thought but also linguistic freedom. This term, denoting the narrow and diminishing official vocabulary, has been used ever since to denote jargon currently in vogue with those in power.

Doublethink: Hypocrisy, but with a twist. Rather than choosing to disregard a contradiction in your opinion, if you are doublethinking, you are deliberately forgetting that the contradiction is there. This subtlety is mostly overlooked by people using the accusation of "doublethink" when trying to accuse an adversary of being hypocritical - but it is a very popular word with people who like a good debate along with their pints in the pub.

- Robert McCrum, in *The Observer*, Sunday 10 May 2009

Avocabo Unit by Alex Ficht, May 2011