

# Words from Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient

ANTIPHON, AVUNCULAR,  
BASILICA, BESOTTED,  
BRIGAND, BURNOOSE,  
COAGULATE, CORPOREAL,  
CYCLAMEN, DEMARCATÉ,  
KELOID, LOGGIA, MEDINA,  
PALANQUIN, PANACEA,  
PARTISAN, PLUMMET,  
PROMONTORY, TITHE



## Avocabo Wordlist 50

### Exercise 49-4: Fill-in-the-blanks

Fill in the best list word (or variation) to complete the following (19)

1. The decisive battle for the liberation of Europe began sixty years ago this month when a Soviet guerrilla army emerged from the forests and swamps of Belorussia to launch a bold surprise attack on the mighty Wehrmacht's rear. The \_\_\_\_\_ brigades, including thousands of Jewish fighters and concentration-camp escapees, devastated the rail lines linking the German Army Group Center to its bases in Poland and Eastern Prussia.
2. Carven's bigger problem, though, was that the cooking oil would \_\_\_\_\_, as anyone who leaves the dishes overnight discovers. His answer was to install a second gas tank with conventional fuel to start the car and heat up the oil.
3. His face was distorted, ripples of hardened skin creating a gargoye, a distorted monster. Through the \_\_\_\_\_ formed by burns of old rebel fire; he grimaced in a dread parody of a smile.
4. The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II arrived at the durbar grounds in a lofty \_\_\_\_\_, dressed in a rich kente cloth and adorned with gold bracelets and necklaces, and surrounded by people dancing to the throbbing of 'fontonfrom' drums. He was only one in a long retinue of courtiers and other chiefs.
5. "That's another queer thing. Tea is your \_\_\_\_\_ for all human ills yet there isn't any nourishment in it. I'd rather have a glass of milk, thank you," said Mac, taking an easy chair and stretching his feet to the fire.
6. Prices for block cheddar cheese traded at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange \_\_\_\_\_ 15 cents on May 12, the market's lowest price since March 19. The drop follows heavy block trading one week before, when Dairy Farmers of America, the nation's largest dairy co-operative, bought nearly 2 million pounds of cheese. Additionally, cheddar barrel prices dropped 10 cents on May 11, to trade at \$1.93.
7. Thirteen-foot-tall silk curtains flank the eight-foot high French doors leading from the master bedroom to the private poolside \_\_\_\_\_, complete with a fountain and a covered walkway.
8. Remaining long after its \_\_\_\_\_ carrier had departed, the sweetened, heady fragrance of vanilla hung heavy in the sun-warmed air.
9. The white walls of the \_\_\_\_\_ gleamed in the early morning sunlight, as the bells shattered the silence, calling the faithful to prayer.
10. What Islam offered was the "carrot or the sword". If you became a convert, your taxes were immediately eliminated, as was your income \_\_\_\_\_. If you didn't, you faced death. The choice was not hard for most to make, unless you were a very devoted martyr in the making.
11. Renting a "siheyuan" or courtyard house has long been preferred by Beijing's foreign residents \_\_\_\_\_ with things Chinese rather than high-rise modern apartments.

12. China and India appointed envoys last June to \_\_\_\_\_ their border, which is largely unmarked on the Tibetan frontier. A new meeting was due this month. An official said on Monday the new government had sought a postponement, but that the talks would be held soon.

13. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a response, usually sung in Gregorian chant to a psalm or some other part of a religious service, such as at Vespers, or at a Mass. This meaning gave rise to the *antiphony* style of singing.

14. After leaving Swakopmund in chilly, early morning mist, our first stop is at a rocky \_\_\_\_\_ jutting into the ocean, home to half a million Cape fur seals. We stand behind a low stone wall and reel at the overpowering stench. At our feet, seals flop and sprawl in shivering, squirming heaps, covering every inch of rock and sand for miles along the shore.

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ can, as the djellaba cannot, because of the sleeves, be thrown back, freeing the arms. One who rides the swift kaiila, who handles the scimitar and lance, chooses the \_\_\_\_\_.

16. A visit to the \_\_\_\_\_, the old walled city within a city, is a must for any first-time visitor to Tunis. Designated a United Nations World Heritage Site, it dates from the eighth century; a meandering marketplace encircling the imposing Zitouna mosque and punctuated by ancient landmarks such as Es Slimaniya Medersa - an eighteenth-century Islamic college.

17. \_\_\_\_\_ is a good choice where light shade and good draining soil are available. Dan Hinkley, founder of the famed Rosewood Nursery, encourages Buckinghamshire gardeners to plant the bulbs deeply, up to two feet, in order to insure hardiness.

18. In Gobichettipalayam, special task forces were deployed to guard the scantily scattered booths, polling agents as well as candidates. Gangs of kidnappers, led by the notorious forest \_\_\_\_\_, Veerappan, frequent the forested area.

19. Thomas, a father of eight, has taken on an \_\_\_\_\_ role with his players, frequently hosting barbecues at his house and providing advice on life as much as football. Here lies the secret of his success, in a less obvious and perhaps less regarded aspect of coaching - man management. His charges respond to him, play for

him, thrive on the faith he displays precisely by not making too many moves, by giving them their head and forgiving the odd mistake.

**Exercise 50-2: Synonyms**

Select the word or phrase closest in meaning to the list word in bold italics (19)

1. **loggia**

- a) arcade                      b) lower level              c) fountain

2. **cyclamen**

- a) bicyclists    b) type of flower    c) Mediterranean tree

3. **palanquin**

- a) litter                      b) harem              c) type of orchid

4. **burnoose**

- a) burro                      b) Arabic scimitar    c) djellaba

5. **panacea**

- a) catholicon              b) miasma              c) bread

6. **medina**

- a) Adriatic city              b) pharmacon              c) Arab section

7. **corporeal**

- a) spiritual                      b) tangible              c) cerebral

8. **basilica**

- a) fane                      b) entryway              c) gallery

9. **coagulate**

- a) deliquesce              b) flux              c) jellify

10. **besotted**

- a) repudiate              b) enamored              c) attacked

11. **demarcate**

- a) dilate                      b) open              c) delimit

12. **antiphon**

- a) response    b) section of antimatter    c) musical rest

13. **promontory**

- a) catwalk                      b) prefix              c) naze

14. **keloid**

- a) remedial    b) antidote    c) scarification

15. **brigand**

- a) trading ship      b) soldier      c) pirate

16. **tithe**

- a) boon                      b) tariff              c) largess

17. **avuncular**

- a) genial                      b) ribald              c) uncouth

18. **plummet**

- a) surge                      b) precipitate              c) ascend

19. **partisan**

- a) upper class              b) individual              c) fanatic

**Exercise 50-4: Making Connections**

Select the list word with the strongest connection for each, and explain the relationship. (22 marks)

1) cicatrix

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2) hemophiliac

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3) nostrum

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4) Peter Easton

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**Exercise 50-3: Word Scramble**

Unscramble the list word from its mixed up state below. (10 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. CANCEL MY

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. LAPQUINNA

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. MEDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. PRO ORACLE

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. TYRO ON ROMP

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. MACERATED

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. SOUR BONE

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. OLD IKE

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. UVULA NARC

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. ASPIRANT

**Dec. 22nd [1938] — Betrayals during war are childlike compared with our betrayals during peace. New lovers are nervous and tender, but smash everything. For the heart is an organ of fire. "For the heart is an organ of fire"— I love that. I believe that.**

- Hana reading Almásy's note on the Christmas firecracker

5) levy

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11) somatic

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6) Gregorian

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A Reader's Guide to *The English Patient* is located on the Random House website

<http://www.randomhouse.com/vintage/read/patient/>

You will find a great review of the book on the Bookhooks.com website:

[http://www.bookhooks.com/detailed.cfm?Report\\_number=2128](http://www.bookhooks.com/detailed.cfm?Report_number=2128)

Feel free to write a report of your own!

7) Queen of Sheba's transport

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8) Heathcliff and Cathy

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9) apse

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10) borders

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This Avocabo Unit by Natalie Namis and Jessica Dyke, June 2004