

# Words from Jose Saramago's *Blindness*

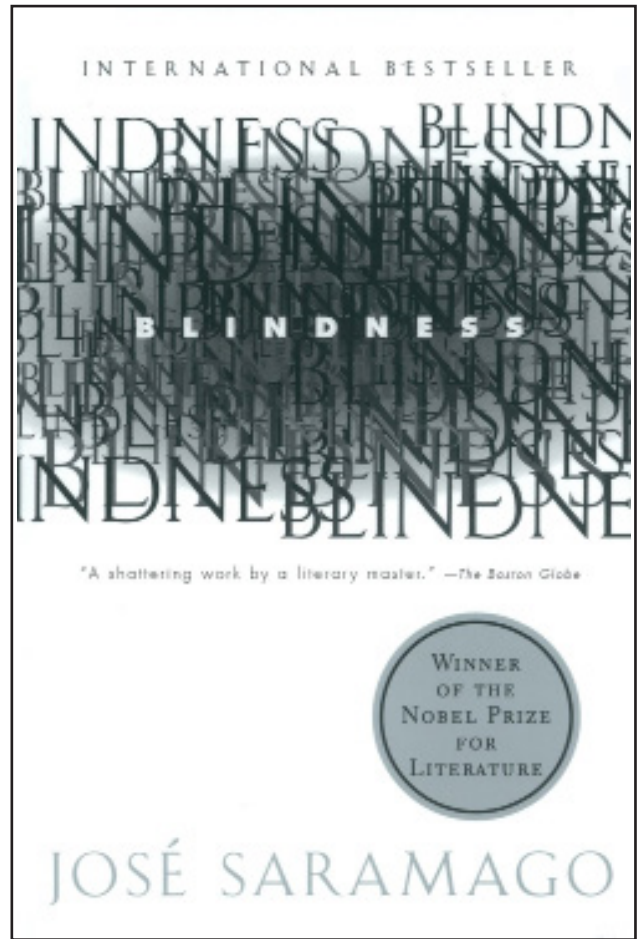
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## *Avocabo Wordlist 104*

*It is a regular and uneventful day in the city and people are commuting from work stuck in gridlock on the highway. Traffic is particularly bad on this day, but becomes worse when everyone suddenly becomes blind. One by one, people contract a disease called the "white blindness" which caused infected people to fully lose their sight. Although people with the disease are considered blind, they can still see, but it is as if they are swimming in a white milky sea with their eyes open. Once the entire population is infected with the white blindness, society begins to collapse; government and services become dysfunctional and chaos reigns.*

**Exercise 104-1: Fill in the Blanks** Complete the following sentences with the best list word (or variation). (25 marks)

1. As the building burst into flames, \_\_\_\_\_ watched helplessly. *n., plural for witnesses.*
2. Through the car windows \_\_\_\_\_ faces spied, avid for some news. *adj. exceedingly eager.*
3. What happened 20 years ago in Rwanda was not just one of the most horrific crimes in history, but one of the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of global leadership. *n., abandonment.*
4. Many ticket attendants have behaved inappropriately towards tourists who forget or refuse to buy tickets, which have added to tourists' \_\_\_\_\_. *n., annoyance.*
5. The energy minister was \_\_\_\_\_ by environmentalists for allowing the oil pipeline to be constructed. *v., to attack vigorously or violently.*



6. Based on the \_\_\_\_\_ language the man used, it was obvious he was very angry. *adj., rude, uncivil.*
7. The man received a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to determine if he had a brain tumor. *n., a picture of the inner body.*
8. The baby was born with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart defect. *adj., pertaining to a condition present at birth.*
9. The tropical island was so calming and beautiful, the experience was almost \_\_\_\_\_. *adj., being beyond ordinary or common experience.*
10. The smell of an unclean pigsty was \_\_\_\_\_. *adj., having an offensive odour; stinking.*
11. In the rest of the world the stream of life still flowed as it had flowed for \_\_\_\_\_ years. *adj., extending back beyond memory, record, or knowledge.*

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12. The man \_\_\_\_\_ soap all over his car in order to remove dirt from its surface. *v., to spread all over.*

13. After the vessel had struck a coral reef, the captain abandoned ship and left all the passenger and crew to perish. His actions were \_\_\_\_\_ to murder. *adj., similar, parallel, comparable.*

14. The public is scared and in despair, and has no use for \_\_\_\_\_ comments. *v., to reflect on or express opinions about something in terms of right and wrong, especially in a self-righteous or tiresome way.*

15. The rainwater was stored in a \_\_\_\_\_ so it could be used later during times of drought. *n., a reservoir, tank or container for storing of holding liquids.*

16. The bus driver was \_\_\_\_\_ by the screaming of small children sitting behind her. *v., to harass, annoy, or prove an nuisance to by of as if by repeated attacks.*

17. The artist's \_\_\_\_\_ paintings only consisted of supernatural and mythological figures. *adj., highly abstract, subtle, or abstruse.*

18. It was remarkable: this rebel leader's whole posture changed from aggression to \_\_\_\_\_. *v., to become agreeable or reconciled.*

19. After his first meal in Lawson Hall, Jason had a \_\_\_\_\_ that the food was not going to get any better. *n., a feeling or impression that something is about to happen.*

20. To argue logically, one must have sufficient information on the subject to do so with facts, not \_\_\_\_\_ or guesses. *n., the formation or expression of an opinion or theory without sufficient evidence or proof.*

21. The soldier \_\_\_\_\_ for a medic to bandage his wounds. *v., to beg urgently or piteously, as for aid or mercy.*

22. The man piled boxes of cereal in the grocery store \_\_\_\_\_ since the manager ordered more than could be displayed at the front of the store. *n., a room or place where food is kept; pantry.*

23. The \_\_\_\_\_ streets of New York City often confuse tourists and directionally challenged people causing them to become lost. *adj., complicated, mazelike.*

24. Astronomers are on the verge of explaining the \_\_\_\_\_ variety of distant galaxies. *adj., resembling an enigma; perplexing; mysterious.*

**Exercise 104-2: Synonyms** Choose the word closest in meaning to the bold list word. (10 marks)

1. The **passersby** all watch the street performer in astonishment as he blew fire from his mouth.

- a) onlookers      b) photographers      c) buskers

2. The **voracious** shoppers waited impatiently for the department store to open its doors and begin taking advantage of the Boxing Day discounts.

- a) tired              b) impatient      c) insatiable

3. Workplace bullying of any kind is often accompanied by an **abdication** of managerial responsibilities.

- a) abandonment      b) increase      c) lack

4. Josh was **vexed** for missing his flight to Dallas.

- a) cheerful              b) agitated      c) relieved

5. The man was **assailed** by a security guard when he attempted to steal diamonds from a jewelry store.

- a) detained              b) fined              c) attacked

6. Her wit, for want of teaching, makes her **impertinent** and talkative.

- a) arrogant              c) caring              d) respectful

7. Eating this local delicacy certainly promises a(n) **transcendental** experience.

- a) sublime              b) ordinary              c) disappointing

8. When a part fails in a well pump, the community cannot afford to repair it, and so returns to the **fetid** swamp to drink.

- a) putrid              b) clean              c) shallow

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9. The smartphone design belonging to Samsung was **akin** to Apple's smartphone design which provoked a lawsuit over patent infringements.

- a) different      b) distinct      c) analogous

10. The guests complained, and the hostess looked **harried**.

- a) calm              b) agitated      c) appreciative

**Exercise 104-3: Antonyms** Match the list words in the first column with a word opposite in meaning from column two. (10 marks)

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| _____ 1. voracious    | a) aromatic        |
| _____ 2. vexation     | b) explicit        |
| _____ 3. assail       | c) satisfied       |
| _____ 4. impertinence | d) unrelated       |
| _____ 5. fetid        | e) protect         |
| _____ 6. harried      | f) joy             |
| _____ 7. metaphysical | g) untroubled      |
| _____ 8. labyrinthine | h) respect         |
| _____ 9. enigmatic    | i) straightforward |
| _____ 10. akin        | j) factual         |

**Exercise 104-4: Anagrams** Unscramble the mixed up phrases to produce a list word. (15 marks)

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. _____  | Sabers Spy      |
| 2. _____  | Ova Curios      |
| 3. _____  | Antacids Bio    |
| 4. _____  | Taxi Oven       |
| 5. _____  | Alas Ides       |
| 6. _____  | Recipient Men   |
| 7. _____  | Congeval Hamper |
| 8. _____  | Angelic Not     |
| 9. _____  | Candle Entrants |
| 10. _____ | Mail Memoir     |
| 11. _____ | Bead Meres      |
| 12. _____ | Apical Thymes   |
| 13. _____ | Clinician Too   |
| 14. _____ | Riling Mop      |
| 15. _____ | Inanely Birth   |

**Exercise 104-5: Making Connections** In a sentence or two, connect the meanings of the two words provided. (15 marks)

1. Relinquish                      Surrender

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2. Impertinent                      Unmannerly

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3. Conciliation                      Appeasement

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4. Enigmatic                      Perplexing

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5. Conjecture                      Opinion

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## Answers to Exercises:

### Exercise 104-1: Fill in the Blanks

1. Passersby 2. Voracious 3. Abdication 4. Vexation 5. As-sailed 6. Impertinent 7. Encephalogram 8. Congenital 9. Transcendental 10. Fetid 11. Immemorial 12. Besmeared 13. Akin 14. Moralising 15. Cistern 16. Harried 17. Meta-physical 18. Conciliation 19. Presentiment 20. Conjectures 21. Implored 22. Larder 23. Labyrinthine 24. Enigmatic

### Exercise 104-2: Synonyms

1. Onlookers 2. Insatiable 3. Abandonment 4. Agitated 5. Attacked 6. Arrogant 7. Sublime 8. Putrid 9. Analogous 10. Agitated

### Exercise 104-3: Antonyms

a. 5 b. 9 c. 1 d. 10 e. 3 f. 2 g. 6 h. 4 i. 8 j. 7

### Exercise 104-4: Anagrams

1. Passersby 2. Voracious 3. Abdications 4. Vexation 5. As-sailed 6. Impertinence 7. Encephalogram 8. Congenital 9. Transcendental 10. Immemorial 11. Besmeared 12. Meta-physical 13. Conciliation 14. Imploring 15. Labyrinthine

### Exercise 104-5: Making Connections

Answers will vary.

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Unit by Nicholas Klid, May 2014