

# Words from Aldous Huxley's Brave New World

## Avocabo Word List 34

BURGEONED, CARAPACE, CHRONIC, DECANTED,  
FULMINATE, HYPNOPAEDIA, INCARNADINE, KIVA,  
MALIGNANT, MANIFESTED, MORIBUND,  
PALPITATING, PNEUMATIC, RAPTURE,  
RESPECTIVELY, SEMBLANCE, STUPEFIED,  
UNORTHODOXY, VISCOSE, VIVIPAROUS, ZEALOUS



Aldous Huxley  
(1894-1963)

*Oh brave new world that has  
such people in it...*

*Shakespeare, The Tempest*

### Exercise 34 - 1 Reading

A SQUAT grey building of only  
thirty-four stories. Over the main  
entrance the words, CENTRAL  
LONDON HATCHERY AND  
CONDITIONING CENTRE,  
and, in a shield, the World State's  
motto, COMMUNITY,  
IDENTITY, STABILITY.

The enormous room on the  
ground floor faced towards the  
north. Cold for all the summer beyond the panes, for all the  
tropical heat of the room itself, a harsh thin light glared  
through the windows, hungrily seeking some draped lay  
figure, some pallid shape of academic goose-flesh, but  
finding only the glass and nickel and bleakly shining  
porcelain of a laboratory. Wintriness responded to  
wintriness. The overalls of the workers were white, their  
hands gloved with a pale corpse-coloured rubber. The light  
was frozen, dead, a ghost. Only from the yellow barrels of  
the microscopes did it borrow a certain rich and living  
substance, lying along the polished tubes like butter, streak  
after luscious streak in long recession down the work tables.

“And this,” said the Director opening the door, “is the  
Fertilizing Room.”

Bent over their instruments, three hundred Fertilizers were  
plunged, as the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning  
entered the room, in the scarcely breathing silence, the  
absent-minded, soliloquizing hum or whistle, of absorbed  
concentration. A troop of newly arrived students, very  
young, pink and callow, followed nervously, rather abjectly,  
at the Director's heels. Each of them carried a notebook, in  
which, whenever the great man spoke, he desperately  
scribbled. Straight from the horse's mouth. It was a rare  
privilege. The D. H. C. for Central London always made a  
point of personally conducting his new students round the  
various departments.

“Just to give you a general idea,” he would explain to them.  
For of course some sort of general idea they must have, if  
they were to do their work intelligently—though as little of  
one, if they were to be good and happy members of  
society, as possible. For particulars, as every one knows,  
make for virtue and happiness; generalities are intellectually  
necessary evils. Not philosophers but fret-sawyers and  
stamp collectors compose the backbone of society.

“To-morrow,” he would add, smiling at them with a slightly  
menacing geniality, “you'll be settling down to serious work.  
You won't have time for generalities. Meanwhile ...”

Meanwhile, it was a privilege. Straight from the horse's  
mouth into the notebook. The boys scribbled like mad.

*Opening pages of Huxley's Brave New World*

### Exercise 34-2: Fill in the blanks

*Fill in the best word (or variation of a list word) to complete the  
excerpts from Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. The missing  
word is defined after the blank. (21 marks)*

1. ‘I shall begin at the beginning,’ said the DHC, and the  
more \_\_\_\_\_ **eager** students recorded his  
intention in their notebooks...”(p. 2)
2. Two, four eight, the buds in their turn budded; and  
having budded were dosed almost to death with alcohol;  
consequently \_\_\_\_\_ **began to grow and  
blossom** again and have budded...left to develop in peace.  
(p. 4)

3. ' For you must remember that in those days of gross \_\_\_\_\_ **giving birth to live offspring** reproduction, children were always brought up by their parents and not in State Conditioning Centres. (p.21)
4. The unchecked stream flows smoothly down its appointed channels into a calm well-being...The \_\_\_\_\_ **poured onto** infant howls; at once a nurse appears with a bottle of external secretion. (p. 38)
5. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ **frequently recurring** fear of being slighted made him avoid his equals, made him stand, where his inferiors were concerned, self-consciously on his dignity. (p. 58).
6. He wrote regularly for *The Hourly Radio*, composed feely scenarios, and had the happiest knack for slogans and \_\_\_\_\_ **'sleep-learning'** rhymes. (p. 59).
7. True, Clara's eyebrows didn't meet. But she was really *too* \_\_\_\_\_ **large and blown up, as if filled with compressed air**. Whereas Fifi and Joanna were absolutely right. Plump, blonde, not too large... (p. 71)
8. Furious with himself for having given away a discreditable secret, he vented his rage on Bernard. The look in his eyes was now frankly \_\_\_\_\_ **malevolent**. (p. 87)
9. ...here and there, a mosaic of white bones, a still unrotted carcass dark on the tawny ground marked the place where deer or steer, puma or porcupine or coyote, or the greedy turkey buzzards.... \_\_\_\_\_ **exploded or detonated** as though by a poetic justice, had come too close to the destroying wires. (p.94)
10. ...suddenly there had swarmed up from those round chambers underground a ghastly troop of monsters. Hideously masked or painted out of all \_\_\_\_\_ **trace or outward appearance** of humanity, they had tramped out a strange limping dance round the square... (p.102)
11. 'Why wouldn't they let me be the sacrifice?...They could have had twice as much blood from me. The multitudinous seas \_\_\_\_\_ **of a blood-red colour**. (p. 102).
12. At the full moon...secrets would be told, secrets would be done and borne. They would go down, boys, into the \_\_\_\_\_ **an underground chamber in a Pueblo village, used by the men especially for ceremonies or councils**, and come out again, men. (p. 123)
13. Then, bending over the precious box, he touched, he lifted into the light, he examined. The zippers on Lenina's spare pair of \_\_\_\_\_ **viscous** velveteen shorts were at first a puzzle... (p.129)
14. Consider the matter dispassionately, Mr. Foster, and you will see that no offence is so heinous as \_\_\_\_\_ **untraditional, or unconventional**...behaviour. (p. 133)
15. With closed eyes, his face shining with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ **expression of ecstatic feeling**, John was softly declaiming to vacancy. (p. 161)
16. Linda was dying in company...At the foot of every bed, confronting its \_\_\_\_\_ **near-death** occupant, was a television box. (p.180)
17. The insults bounced off their \_\_\_\_\_ **protective shell** of thick stupidity; they stared at him with a blank expression of dull and sullen resentment in their eyes. (p. 194)
18. \_\_\_\_\_ **With dulled senses or amazed** by *soma*, and exhausted by a long-drawn frenzy of sensuality, the Savage lay sleeping in the heather. (p. 236)
19. ...on holiday in some other world, where the music of the radio was a labyrinth of sonorous colours, a \_\_\_\_\_ **quivering** labyrinth, that led to a bright centre of absolute conviction... (p. 140)
20. 'In pre-modern times he \_\_\_\_\_ **plainly revealed** himself as the being that's described in these books. Now...' (p. 213)
21. ...staff of the Park Lane Hospital for the Dying consisted of one hundred and sixty-two Deltas divided into two Bokanovsky Groups of eighty-four red-headed female and seventy-eight dark dolichocephalic male twins, \_\_\_\_\_ **in the order mentioned**. (p. 190)

**Exercise 34-3 Synonyms**

Circle the word that is closest in meaning to the **bold** word  
(21 marks)

1. He gazed at the beautiful girl with **rapture**  
a) bliss b) horror c) shock
2. The actor **manifested** his role  
a) embodied b) remembered c) overlooked
3. **Unorthodoxy** opinions  
a) inappropriate b) untraditional c) insane
4. A **semblance** of the original  
a) look-alike b) picture c) distortion
5. Automobile tires are **pneumatic**  
a) heavy b) useful c) inflated
6. **Chronic** pain  
a) ever-present b) intense c) occasional
7. The plants **burgeoned**  
a) withered b) turned green c) flourished
8. His **palpitating** heart  
a) pulsating b) struggling c) sickly
9. The old woman's **moribund** life  
a) depressing b) at the point of death c) monotonous
10. **Hypnopaedic** learning is not currently used in schools  
learning by a) hearing in sleep b) being hypnotized c) getting  
extra energy from high-sugar snacks
11. Adolf Hitler was **malignant**  
a) racist b) passive c) evil
12. The Pueblo village's **kiva**  
a) underground dwelling b) underground ceremonial  
chamber c) church
13. Charlie was **stupefied** by his discovery  
a) flabbergasted b) excited c) repulsed
14. **Viscose** substance  
a) extremely flammable b) A thick, golden-brown solution  
of cellulose xanthate c) the naturally found form of plastic

15. An **incarnadine** fruit  
a) red b) juicy c) rotten
16. The turtle's **carapace**  
a) shell b) speed c) mannerisms
17. The weary teacher **fulminates**  
a) falls asleep b) explodes c) leaves
18. The wine was **decanted**  
a) thrown away b) poured c) stored
19. Some high school students are incredibly **zealous**  
a) passionate b) resentful c) pleasure-seeking
20. The students filed out respectively  
a) hastily b) in an orderly fashion c) grimly
21. The gazelle is **viviparous**  
a) commonly prey b) produces live offspring c) is very fast

**Exercise 34-4: Antonyms**

Circle the word that is opposite in meaning to the **displayed** word  
(18 marks)

1. **zealous**  
a) shocked b) disinterested c) delighted
2. **burgeoned**  
a) died b) shrank c) widened
3. **viviparous producing:**  
a) infertile b) disease c) mutations
4. **decanted**  
a) filled up b) flooded c) spilled
5. **chronic**  
a) painless b) usual c) intermittent
6. **hypnopaedia**  
a) learning while awake b) inherited hyperactive behaviour  
c) learning while on drugs
7. **malignant**  
a) evil b) benign c) angry
8. **fulminate**  
a) attack b) appease c) douse with water

9. **semblance**

- a) smell      b) lack of      c) opposite

10. **viscose**

- a) sticky              b) flows easily              c) thick

11. **unorthodox**

- a) conformed      b) unpleasant      c) unusual

12. **palpitating**

- a) quivering      b) dying      c) beating slowly

13. **rapture**

- a) dissatisfaction      b) obsession      c) hypnotics

14. **moribund**

- a) near birth      b) dying      c) happy

15. **carapace**

- a) slow      b) without a heart      c) interior

16. **stupefied**

- a) aware      b) shocked      c) smart

17. **respectively**

- a) out of order      b) angrily      c) slowly

18. **manifested**

- a) formed      b) died      c) internalized

2. moribund      death bed

3. malignant      cancer

4. hypnopaedia      brainwashing

5. viviparous      oviparous

It is fascinating that *Brave New World* (1932) was written prior to the space age, computers, genetic engineering, and technology like helicopters, to which the novel refers.

**Exercise 34- 5 Making connections**

Describe the relationship between the two words in a sentence or two. Be sure to define the words in your explanation. (10 marks)

1. stupefied      hypnotized

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Unit courtesy of Kirsten Johnson, March 2004