



## Words from Jack Kerouac's On The Road

### Avocabo Word List 17

AMENABLE, DICHOTOMY, DISCONSOLATE, IMPRECATION, IRRESPECTIVE, JALOPY, JARGON, LOUT, PALPITATE, PHOSPHORESCENCE, REVERIE, RIGMAROLE, ROTGUT, SARDONIC, SERAPHICALLY, SPITTOON, SURREALISM, TACITURN, TENEMENT, VISTA, WELTER

#### Exercise 17-1: Fill-in-the-blanks

Complete each sentence with the list word that is defined in the bold italicized text. Write your choice in the space provided. (21 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The young jockey was **sad beyond comforting** after he was found guilty of irresponsible riding of a major nature on the 7-2 favourite in the Bet Direct Live Football.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. He believes that the United States will decide to go to war over Iraq more or less **in spite of everything** of the actual findings of the UN inspectors.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pete Rose has more hits than anyone to ever play baseball, no matter how much of a **awkward stupid person** he might have been outside that batter's box.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The committees has to go through the **long and complicated and confusing procedures** of fund-raising every year just to get the money together.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mr. Hanks holds his own as the movie's **reserved and uncommunicative**, enigmatic antihero on a vengeful mission: a killer for hire with a social conscience and a devotion to his young son.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The latest position of Pyongyang may even be **disposed or willing to comply** to this option, provided it obtains what it truly seeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Thousands are crammed into **rundown apartment house barely meeting minimal standards** buildings — 10, 12 or more individuals, or several families, sharing a single apartment in which the rooms have been divided by plywood partitions and raw-board bunk beds.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The residents of the squat turn-of-the-century loft building confront their return with a **confused multitude of** emotions — anxiety, sadness, joy, longing for the past, but mainly relief.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Sixty per cent of company directors feel irritated or annoyed when people use **specialized technical terminology characteristic of a particular subject** or buzzwords in business conversations.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. If we take the **sorting of a class of things into two mutually exclusive subclasses** between subjectivity and objectivity to mean something like feeling versus fact, we can begin to see the dilemma.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Picasso never fully embraced the most characteristic technique of **20th century movement in art and literature (developing out of Dadaism) that used fantastic images and incongruous juxtapositions in order to represent unconscious thoughts and dreams**—“psychic automatism in its pure state”.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. “Every thought that was devoted to it was an extreme anguish, and every word that I spoke in allusion to it caused my lips to quiver, and my heart to **beat rapidly**.”

*Frankenstein, Mary Shelley*

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. “Whilst all the landscape was in neutral shade his companion's face, which was the focus of his eyes, rising above the mist stratum, seemed to have a sort of **emission of light** upon it.”

*Tess of the d'Uberilles, Thomas Hardy*

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. We note the subtle differences between the twins, who have a few basic differences: Fred is a bit more over-the-top in his humour, beginning jokes and carrying them to their extremes, and George is somewhat subtler, more **disdainfully or ironically humorous** in his comments.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Pearl accordingly ran to the bow-window, at the further end of the hall, and looked along the **scene** of a garden walk, carpeted with closely-shaven grass, and bordered with some rude and immature attempt at shrubbery.

*The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne*

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. The exhibit “Baby-Boom Daydreams” is not an absent-minded **daydream**, as the title suggests; it’s an extended cautionary tale that contrasts worldly longings with the fear of damnation.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. “Mr. Gamfield growled a fierce **insulting and evil-invoing curse** on the donkey generally, but more particularly on his eyes; and, running after him, bestowed a blow on his head, which would inevitably have beaten in any skull but a donkey’s.”

*Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens*

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. “Somebody passed a bottle of **alcoholic beverage of inferior quality**, the bottom of it. They took a big swig in the wild, lyrical, drizzling air of Nebraska.”

*On The Road, (22)*

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. “But I had to get going and stop moaning, so I picked up my bag, said so long to the old hotelkeeper sitting by his **a receptacle for spit**, and went to eat.”

*On The Road, (15)*

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. “Dean is the perfect guy for the road because he actually was born on the road, when his parents were passing through Salt Lake City in 1926, in a **old, unreliable automobile**, on their way to Los Angeles.”

*On The Road, (6)*

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. “He was finally an Angel, as I always knew he would become; but like any Angel he still had rages and furies, and that night when we all left the party and repaired to the Windsor Bar in one vast brawling gang, Dean became frantically and demonically and **having a sweet nature befitting an angel or cherub** drunk.”

*On The Road, (263)*

**Exercise 17-2: Synonyms**

From three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the list word (in **italic boldface**) in the context displayed (21 marks)

- 1) an **amenable** partner  
a) open-minded b) lazy c) intelligent
- 2) the **dichotomy** seen in *A Tale of Two Cities*  
a) plot b) comparisons c) characters
- 3) the team was **disconsolate** after losing  
a) overjoyed b) extremely dejected c) sad
- 4) **taciturn** student  
a) bright b) uninterested c) untalkative
- 5) the **welter** in the market  
a) fruit stand b) jumble c) heat
- 6) the **rotgut** burned the hobo’s insides  
a) raw liquor b) hydrochloric acid c) pop
- 7) in a deep **reverie**  
a) hole b) daydream c) conversation
- 8) complicated bureaucratic **rigmarole**  
a) procedure b) diagram c) materials
- 9) her fingers **palpitate**  
a) are cold b) point c) flutter
- 10) the child’s **jargon**  
a) gobbledygook b) play toys c) toes
- 11) the witch’s **imprecation**  
a) blessing b) benediction c) curse
- 12) sun’s **phosphorescence**  
a) heat rays b) luminescence c) gases

