

English Words of Arabic Origin

ADMIRAL, ADOBE, ALCHEMY, ALFALFA, ASSASSIN, AZURE, BEDOUIN, CALIBER, CIPHER, FAKIR, JASMINE, JINNI, KAFFIR, MOCHA, MULLAH, POPINJAY, SAFFRON, TABBY, TALISMAN, TARIFF, TYPHOON, VEGA, ZENITH

Avocabo Wordlist 63



ARABIC ranks sixth in the world's league table of languages, with an estimated 186 million native speakers. As the language of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, it is also widely used throughout the Muslim world. It belongs to the Semitic group of languages which also includes Hebrew and Amharic, the main language of Ethiopia. There are many Arabic dialects. **Classical Arabic** – the language of the Qur'an – was originally the dialect of Mecca in what is now Saudi Arabia. An adapted form of this, known as **Modern Standard Arabic**, is used in books, newspapers, on television and radio, in the mosques, and in conversation between educated Arabs from different countries (for example at international conferences). **Local dialects** vary, and a Moroccan might have difficulty understanding an Iraqi, even though they speak the same language.

"The Arabic Language". *Arab Gateway*.
<<http://www.al-bab.com/arab/language/lang.htm>>

Exercise 63-1: Fill-in-the-blanks

Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word from those in the word list. Write your choice in the space provided. Definitions of the missing words are provided after each question. (10 marks)

1. "This is the biggest individual blow given in the world (to drug traffickers)," said _____ Mauricio Soto, the commander of the Colombian navy. *n. the commander in chief of a fleet*
2. Freezing temperatures and rain caused ice to form which killed the _____. *n. a southwest Asian perennial herb having compound leaves with three leaflets and clusters of usually blue-violet flowers*
3. "DON'T VOTE" it says. "If you vote today you become _____ (a disbeliever) and go to hellfire tomorrow." *n. Islam- an infidel*
4. _____ sprouts delicate gold and yellow trumpets from its shiny green leaves. But don't let its appearance fool you; the _____ is hardy and endures droughts very well and it loves direct morning sunshine. *n. any of several vines or shrubs having usually compounded leaves and white or yellow flowers*
5. A spunky orange _____ cat, in a brief moment of silence, sits unassumingly atop the back of the sofa, licking his little white paws. *n. a domestic cat with a striped or brindled coat of grey and tawny colour*
6. Import _____ on used cars are based on engine size. The _____ on cars older than seven years is between 2 and 3 euros (\$2.56 and \$3.84) per cubic centimetre. *n. duties imposed by the government on imported or exported goods*
7. The woman burst into tears and wanting to thank the pilot gave him a mascot - a little clay god - saying that the _____ had kept her father and brother alive during World War. *n. an object marked with magic signs and believed to confer on its bearer supernatural powers or protection*
8. A 22-month-old _____ boy from the Negev village of Hura died yesterday from a severe infection, apparently after contracting the meningococcal bacteria. *n. an Arab of any other nomadic tribes of the Arabian, Syrian, Nubian, or Sahara deserts*
9. The popular RSA _____ algorithm, widely deployed in public-key cryptography, relies on factorization. The secret key being transferred between sender and receiver is encrypted with a publicly available key, say, a large

number such as 408,508,091 (in practice, the number would be much larger). It can be decrypted only with a private key owned by the recipient of the data, made up of two factors, in this case 18,313 and 22,307. *n. a cryptographic system in which units of plain text of regular length, usually letters, are arbitrarily transported or substituted according to a predetermined code*

10. Anchored in the _____ waters behind the Hotel Cap at Eden Roc, there is a luxury yacht three city blocks long. On the back of this yacht is a helicopter noisily preparing to take off. *n. a light purplish blue*

11. The repair mission reached its _____ in late November when workers patched nearly 4,000 roofs statewide in a single day, according to the Army Corps of Engineers' roofing database. *n. the point of culmination; the peak*

12. The man who directed hit teams for drug kingpin Pablo Escobar said Friday that a former top politician was behind the 1989 _____ of leading presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan. *n. one who murders by surprise attack, especially one who carries out a plot to kill a prominent person*

13. After being processed in Spain, between 40 percent to 50 percent of Iran's _____ is re-exported to other countries under Spanish trademarks, said the chairman of the Union of _____ Exporters. *n. a corn-producing plant, used to colour foods and as a cooking spice*

14. 40,000 cases of painkillers are set to be sent to the Philippines to help local populations hit by a number of _____ last November which claimed the lives of some 1,440 people. *n. a tropical cyclone occurring in the western Pacific or Indian oceans*

15. Apiti and his partner, Shawn Hicks, did not serve coffee at this dinner, but they typically brew Starbucks Colombia Roast in an espresso machine, then add ground Williams-Sonoma chocolate for _____ lattes. *n. a coffee beverage flavoured with milk, sugar and cocoa*

16. The _____ became the isolated home of Dana and his young bride on almost 39,000 grassy acres, where the couple raised 13 children. While some historians believe it was a sign of true romance, Dana added many amendments, including windows, closets and wood floors, not typically seen. *n. a sun-dried unburned brick of clay and straw; a structure built with this type of brick*

17. Several high- _____ athletes, who, for various reasons, have not been afforded looks by scouts at the highest level of their game, will be heading to Boston and the Senior Invitational Pro Basketball Camp beginning on June 11, 2005. *n. degree of worth; quality*

18. Live _____ or divine chemistry provides metaphysical, philosophical, scientific, religious, intellectual and intelligent meaning to the connection between heaven and earth. *n. a seemingly magical power or process of transmuting*

19. In Sidiqui's tradition, demons, including Satan himself, are not fallen angels but a third race of beings created from a smokeless fire called "_____." They cannot be seen by humans, but they can see us. The word genie derives from _____. *n. a spirit often capable of assuming human or animal form and exercising supernatural power over people*

20. The Summer Triangle, composed of bright stars _____, Deneb, and Altair, crawls its way into the evening sky. _____, the most luminous of the trio, rises two hours before sunset, so it is easily detected low in the northeast as night descends. Deneb is up next, crossing the horizon 1 1/2 hours before sunset. Altair, the last of the triad, lingers, as if waiting to make a grand entrance. It rises two hours after sunset. *n. the brightest star in the constellation Lyra*

Exercise 63-2: Making Connections

In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (5 x 2 marks)

1. calibre diameter

2. assassin Mark David Chapman

3. alchemy panacea

4. popinjay taciturn

5. fakir magic

Exercise 63-3: Etymologies

Provide the list word described. (5 marks)

_____ 1. Which list word comes from the Arabic word meaning *bricks*?

_____ 2. Which list word comes from the Arabic word *waliya*, which means to become near, or be in charge?

_____ 3. Which list word is derived from the name of a town of southwest Yemen?

_____ 4. Which list word comes from the Arabic word meaning *demon*?

_____ 5. Which list word comes from the Arabic word meaning *the falling*?

Exercise 63-4: Parts of Speech

Fill in the blanks with the correct word that fits the part of speech given. If there is no word for that part of speech, draw in an 'X'. (5 marks)

_____ 1. Adjective form of *alchemy*

_____ 2. Adjective form of *mocha*

_____ 3. Verb form of *tariff*

_____ 4. Adjective form of *assassin*

_____ 5. Verb form of *mullah*

Exercise 63-5: Synonyms

From the three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the list word (in bold face) in the context shown. (10 marks)

1. **saffron** dress
(a) sweet (b) stigmatic (c) yellow

2. **typhoon** in the Indian Ocean
(a) cyclone (b) dinghy (c) tsunami

3. **zenith** of her career
(a) peak (b) bottom (c) pit

4. **Vega**, bright as ever
(a) vegetarian (b) star (c) the Sun

5. school of high **calibre**
(a) diameter (b) limitation (c) quality

6. the **popinjay** annoyed the class: one who is:
(a) talkative (b) belligerent (c) taciturn

7. he needed to **cipher** the secret message
(a) decode (b) locate (c) encode

8. punishment for the **assassin**
(a) ally (b) murderer (c) benefactor

9. the power of the **talisman**
(a) amulet (b) tribal shaman (c) Turkish coin

10. the **azure** sky
(a) clear (b) night (c) cerulean

Exercise 63-6: Discriminating Appropriate/ Inappropriate Usage

Indicate whether the sentences below use the list word (in boldface) correctly or incorrectly by circling or highlighting the correct icon. (10 marks)

- 1. The current employee is extremely **admiral**, both socially and professionally.
- 2. The secret code was easily **deciphered** using a computer program.
- 3. The quality of the school was easy to **calibre**, as it was clearly of high standards.
- 4. The **tabby** cat resembled a zebra with its dark, striped markings.
- 5. **Typhoon** is a Chinese martial art which combines principles of karate and judo.
- 6. All the goods traded across the North American border are **tariff**-free.
- 7. The solution was **alchemically** modified to meet the requirements for the experiment.
- 8. The **mocha** army pants were ideal for the tasks that required camouflaging.
- 9. It took Sara fifteen years to reach the **zenith** in her medical career.
- 10. Thomas was a **fakir** and was never true to himself or others; no one knew the real Thomas.

Exercise 63-7: More Words Derived from Arabic

Below you will find even more words that have migrated from Arabic to English usage. Highlight all of the words that are familiar to you. Look up and define any four that are not familiar to you. (4 marks)

alcohol, alcove, alembic, algebra, algorithm, alkali, almanac, amalgam, aniline, apricot, arsenal, arsenic, artichoke, aubergine, Betelgeuse, bint, borax, cable, calabash, caliph, camel, camise, camphor, candy, cane, cannabis carafe, carat, caraway, carmine, carob, casbah, check,

checkmate, cinnabar, coffee, copt, cotton, crimson, crocus, cumin, damask, dhow dragoman, elixir, emir, fellah, garble, gauze, gazelle, ghoul, Gibraltar, giraffe, grab, guitar, gypsum, halva, harem, hashish, hazard, henna, hookah, imam, influenza, jar, jerboa, jessamine, khamsin, khan, kismet, kohl, lacquer, lake, lemon, lilac., lime, lute, magazine, mahdi, marabout, marzipan, massacre, massage, mastaba, mate, mattress, mecca, minaret, mizzen, mohair, monsoon, mosque muezzin, mufti, mummy, muslim, muslin, myrrh, nabob, nacre, nadir, orange, ottoman, racket, safari, saloop, sash, scallion, senna, sequin, serif, sesame, shackle, sheikh, sherbet, shrub sirocco, sofa, spinach, sudd, sufi, sugar, sultan, sultana, syrup, talc, tamarind, tambourine, tarboosh, tare, tarragon, Trafalgar, vizier, wadi, zero

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Avocabo Unit by Aalla Sidahmed, May 2005