

# Vocabulary Practice



Fill in the gaps with these words:  
barley – bustling – cumin – dwell – herdsman – incantation – lingers on –  
lump – papyri – scribe – sweltering – unripe

It's another \_\_\_\_\_ morning in Memphis, Egypt. As the sunlight brightens the Nile, Peseshet checks her supplies. Honey, garlic, \_\_\_\_\_, acacia leaves, cedar oil. She's well stocked with the essentials she needs to treat her patients.

Peseshet is a *swnw*, or a doctor. In order to become one, she had to train as a \_\_\_\_\_ and study the medical papyri stored at the *Per Ankh*, the House of Life. Now, she teaches her own students there.

On her way, a woman intercepts Peseshet in the street. The woman's son has been stung by a scorpion. Peseshet has seen many similar stings and knows exactly what to do. She must say an \_\_\_\_\_ to cast the poison out. She begins to recite the spell, invoking *Serqet*, patron of physicians and goddess of venomous creatures.

She wants to find out if she is pregnant. Peseshet explains her fail-safe pregnancy test: plant two seeds: one barley, one emmer. Then, urinate on the seeds every day. If the plants grow, she's pregnant. A \_\_\_\_\_ seedling predicts a baby boy, while emmer foretells a girl.

When Peseshet finally arrives at the House of Life, she runs into the doctor-priest *Ilesi*. She greets *Ilesi* politely, but she thinks priests are very full of themselves. She doesn't envy *Ilesi*'s role as *neru pehut*, which directly translates to \_\_\_\_\_ of the anus to the royal family, or, guardian of the royal anus. Inside, the House of Life is \_\_\_\_\_ as usual with scribes, priests, doctors, and students. \_\_\_\_\_ containing all kinds of records, not just medical information, are stored here.

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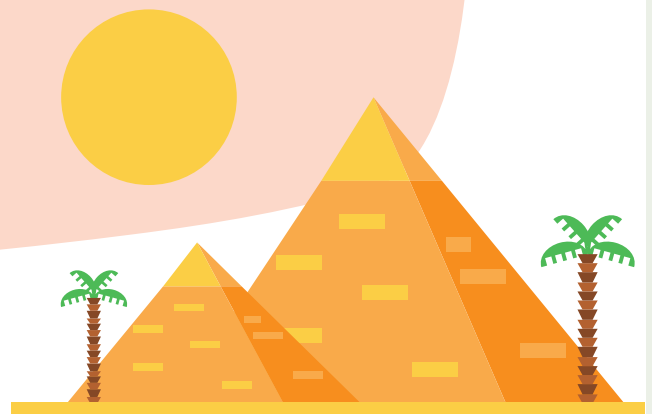
Fill in the gaps with these words:  
barley – bustling – cumin – dwell – herdsman – incantation – lingers on –  
lump – papyri – scribe – sweltering – unripe

Peseshet is preparing to leave when a pale, thin woman accosts her at the door and begs to be examined. The woman has a huge, sore \_\_\_\_\_ under her arm. Peseshet probes the growth and finds it cool to the touch and hard like an \_\_\_\_\_ hemat fruit. She has read about ailments like this, but never seen one.

She \_\_\_\_\_ the steps of the House of Life, admiring the city at dusk. In spite of all her hard work, there will always be patients she can't help, like the woman with the tumour. They linger with her, but Peseshet has no time to \_\_\_\_\_. In a few short weeks, the Nile's annual flooding will begin, bringing life to the soil for the next year's harvest and a whole new crop of patients.

## Writing Exercise / Class Discussion

Despite the fact that medicine has advanced a lot, many people still hold on to old superstitions. Why do you think this is?



# Vocabulary Practice Key



Fill in the gaps with these words:  
barley – bustling – cumin – dwell – herdsman – incantation – lingers on –  
lump – papyri – scribe – sweltering – unripe

It's another **sweltering** morning in Memphis, Egypt. As the sunlight brightens the Nile, Peseshet checks her supplies. Honey, garlic, **cumin**, acacia leaves, cedar oil. She's well stocked with the essentials she needs to treat her patients.

Peseshet is a *swnw*, or a doctor. In order to become one, she had to train as a **scribe** and study the medical papyri stored at the Per Ankh, the House of Life. Now, she teaches her own students there.

On her way, a woman intercepts Peseshet in the street. The woman's son has been stung by a scorpion. Peseshet has seen many similar stings and knows exactly what to do. She must say an **incantation** to cast the poison out. She begins to recite the spell, invoking Serqet, patron of physicians and goddess of venomous creatures.

She wants to find out if she is pregnant. Peseshet explains her fail-safe pregnancy test: plant two seeds: one barley, one emmer. Then, urinate on the seeds every day. If the plants grow, she's pregnant. A **barley** seedling predicts a baby boy, while emmer foretells a girl.

When Peseshet finally arrives at the House of Life, she runs into the doctor-priest Ilesi. She greets Ilesi politely, but she thinks priests are very full of themselves. She doesn't envy Ilesi's role as *neru pehut*, which directly translates to **herdsman** of the anus to the royal family, or, guardian of the royal anus. Inside, the House of Life is **bustling** as usual with scribes, priests, doctors, and students. **Papyri** containing all kinds of records, not just medical information, are stored here.

# Vocabulary Practice Key



Fill in the gaps with these words:  
barley – bustling – cumin – dwell – herdsman – incantation – lingers on –  
lump – papyri – scribe – sweltering – unripe

Peseshet is preparing to leave when a pale, thin woman accosts her at the door and begs to be examined. The woman has a huge, sore **lump** under her arm. Peseshet probes the growth and finds it cool to the touch and hard like an **unripe** hemat fruit. She has read about ailments like this, but never seen one.

She **lingers on** the steps of the House of Life, admiring the city at dusk. In spite of all her hard work, there will always be patients she can't help, like the woman with the tumour. They linger with her, but Peseshet has no time to **dwell**. In a few short weeks, the Nile's annual flooding will begin, bringing life to the soil for the next year's harvest and a whole new crop of patients.

## Writing Exercise / Class Discussion

Despite the fact that medicine has advanced a lot, many people still hold on to old superstitions. Why do you think this is?

