

# "The Sniper" by Liam O'Flaherty

- 1 **twilight** the time of day immediately following sunset  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *The long June twilight faded into night.*
- 2 **dawn** the first light of day  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Dublin lay enveloped in darkness but for the dim light of the moon that shone through fleecy clouds, casting a pale light as of approaching dawn over the streets and the dark waters of the Liffey.*
- 3 **beleaguer** annoy persistently  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Around the beleaguered Four Courts the heavy guns roared.*
- 4 **court** an assembly (including one or more judges) to conduct judicial business  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Around the beleaguered Four Courts the heavy guns roared.*
- 5 **ascetic** someone who practices self denial as a spiritual discipline  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *His face was the face of a student, thin and ascetic, but his eyes had the cold gleam of the fanatic.*
- 6 **gleam** a flash of light (especially reflected light)  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *His face was the face of a student, thin and ascetic, but his eyes had the cold gleam of the fanatic.*
- 7 **fanatic** a person motivated by irrational enthusiasm (as for a cause)  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *His face was the face of a student, thin and ascetic, but his eyes had the cold gleam of the fanatic.*
- 8 **parapet** a low wall along the edge of a roof or balcony  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Almost immediately, a bullet flattened itself against the parapet of the roof.*
- 9 **whiff** a short light gust of air  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *The sniper took another whiff and put out the cigarette.*  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He wanted to fire, but he knew it was useless.*
- 10 **pierce** penetrate or cut through with a sharp instrument  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *His bullets would never pierce the steel that covered the gray monster.*

- 11 **tattered** worn to shreds; or wearing torn or ragged clothing  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Then round the corner of a side street came an old woman, her head covered by a **tattered** shawl.*
- 12 **turret** a small tower extending above a building  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *She began to talk to the man in the **turret** of the car.*
- 13 **whirl** the shape of something rotating rapidly EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *The woman **whirled** round and fell with a shriek into the gutter.*
- 14 **curse** an appeal to some supernatural power to inflict evil on someone or some group  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *Suddenly from the opposite roof a shot rang out and the sniper dropped his rifle with a **curse**.*
- 15 **mutter** talk indistinctly; usually in a low voice  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *"I'm hit," he **muttered**.*
- 16 **sensation** an unelaborated elementary awareness of stimulation  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *There was no pain--just a deadened **sensation**, as if the arm had been cut off.*
- 17 **paroxysm** a sudden uncontrollable attack  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *A **paroxysm** of pain swept through him.*
- 18 **corpse** the dead body of a human being  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *The woman's **corpse** lay still in the gutter.*
- 19 **remorse** a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He became bitten by **remorse**.*
- 20 **ruse** a deceptive maneuver (especially to avoid capture)  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *His **ruse** has succeeded.*
- 21 **silhouette** a drawing of the outline of an object; filled in with some uniform color  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He was now standing before a row of chimney pots, looking across, with his head clearly **silhouetted** against the western sky.*
- 22 **recoil** spring back; spring away from an impact  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He was almost deafened with the report and his arm shook with the **recoil**.*

- 23 **concussion** injury to the brain caused by a blow; usually resulting in loss of consciousness  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *The revolver went off with a **concussion** and the bullet whizzed past the sniper's head.*
- 24 **reckless** marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He felt **reckless** under the influence of the spirit.*
- 25 **influence** a power to affect persons or events especially power based on prestige etc  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *He felt reckless under the **influence** of the spirit.*
- 26 **hail** precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents  
EXAMPLE SENTENCE: *A machine gun tore up the ground around him with a **hail** of bullets, but he escaped.*