MACBETH: If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well
   It were done quickly. If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch
With his surcease, success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all—here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague th' inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends th' ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued against
The deep damnation of his taking-off;
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim horsed
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
And falls on the other—

**Exercise 1: Context Clues**

Read the selection, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words
Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don't know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>chalice</th>
<th>commend</th>
<th>evenhanded</th>
<th>plead</th>
<th>trammel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cherubim</td>
<td>courier</td>
<td>plague</td>
<td>surcease</td>
<td>vaulting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. chalice
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

2. cherubim
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

3. commend
   Part of Speech: v.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

4. courier
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

5. evenhanded
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

6. plague
   Part of Speech: v.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

7. plead
   Part of Speech: v.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

8. surcease
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

9. trammel
   Part of Speech: v.
   Context Clues:

   Your Definition:

   Dictionary Definition:

10. vaulting
    Part of Speech: adj.
    Context Clues:

    Your Definition:

    Dictionary Definition:
Exercise 3: Using Synonyms

The words in italic type in the sentences below are synonyms of the Master Words. Write the sentence on the line below using Master Words in the place of the words in italic type.

1. The messenger will deliver the important document to the judge.

2. The classical painting showed angels holding ornate cups.

3. My brother threatened to bother me without end until I let him play with my video game.

4. A humbling experience is one way to hamper a bad case of overreaching pride.

5. A lawyer trying to argue a case is not necessarily arguing in an impartial manner.

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

1. The Knights of the Round Table searched for the Holy Grail, supposedly the ...?... used by Jesus at the Last Supper.

2. The coach promised (a, an) ...?... approach when choosing members of the cheerleading squad.

3. Abigail wants to get a job as a bike ...?... delivering documents.

4. The wind seemed to blow without ...?... during the blizzard.

5. Alexander's ...?... ambition was not viewed favorably by his teammates.

6. The defendant hired a good lawyer to ...?... his case before the jury.

7. The senator decided to do all in his power to ...?... the passage of the bill.

8. Mosquitoes ...?...(d, ed) the workers in the oil fields of Venezuela.

9. The cards featured chubby ...?... representing Cupid, the god of love.

10. When my sister went to college she ...?...(d, ed) her cat into my care.
Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

The word **vault** has several different meanings depending on how it is used in a sentence. Choose the number of the correct definition for **vault** for each of the following sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>** vault**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>n.</em> an arched structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>n.</em> a burial chamber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>n.</em> a place for storing valuables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <em>v.</em> to leap over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <em>v.</em> to arch over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The grape arbor **vaulted** over the garden path.  
2. The security system on the **vault** used state-of-the-art technology.  
3. The coffin was placed into the **vault**.  
4. The roof of the cathedral formed a **vault** over the sanctuary.  
5. The purse snatcher **vaulted** over the fence and got away from the police.

Exercise 6: Analogies

Determine the relationship between the first pair of words in each item below. Then write the Master Word on the blank that would create a similar relationship with the second pair of words. The analogy types used in this activity are synonyms, antonyms, actor/action, category/item, and action/actor. (See page 158 for a guide to analogy types.)

1. judge : rule :: lawyer :  
2. insect : beetle :: vessel :  
3. peak : summit :: death :  
4. build : carpenter :: deliver :  
5. combine : separate :: soothe :  
6. grant : award :: entrust :  
7. master : apprentice :: archangel :  
8. scarce : abundant :: biased :

Write About It: A Soliloquy

In this passage, *Macbeth* delivers a soliloquy—a type of speech in a drama in which a character talks to himself or herself when alone on stage. In this soliloquy, Macbeth airs his concerns about an action he is about to perform. **Write a soliloquy** in which a character gives voice to his or her anxiety over an action he or she is about to perform. Use at least four Master Words or words related to the Master Words in your soliloquy.
Guide to Types of Analogies in Vocabu-Lit

The chart below contains descriptions and examples of all the types of analogies used in this level of Vocabu-Lit. The statement in italics is a template of a sentence you can use with each type of analogy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>action/actor or actor/action</td>
<td>The first word is an action; the second word is the person or thing that does the action. [First word] is what a [second word] does. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is someone or something who [second word].</td>
<td>teach: teacher :: sew: needle teacher: teach :: needle: sew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>action/receiver of action or receiver of action/action</td>
<td>The first word is an action; the second word is a person or thing the action is done to, for, or with. [First word] works on/to/for/with a [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] does for/to/with [second word].</td>
<td>teach: student :: sew: dress student: teach :: dress: sew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adjective/related noun or noun/related adjective</td>
<td>The first word is a quality; the second word is a person or thing known for that quality. [First word] is what a [second word] is known to be [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is known to be [second word].</td>
<td>artistic: painter :: cunning: fox painter: artistic :: fox: cunning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antonyms</td>
<td>The first word is the opposite of the second word. [First word] is the opposite of [second word].</td>
<td>hot: cold :: sunny: cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>category/item or item/category</td>
<td>The first word is a category or group of things or people; the second word is an item or example from that group. One example of [first word] is [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is one example of [second word].</td>
<td>sports: baseball :: music: jazz baseball: sports :: jazz: music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cause/effect or effect/cause</td>
<td>The first word is a cause; the second word is an effect of that cause. [First word] causes [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is the result of [second word].</td>
<td>sadness: tears :: exertion: fatigue tears: sadness :: fatigue: exertion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>degree</td>
<td>The first word is an especially strong thing or quality; the second word is a less strong version of the same thing or quality. [First word] is more intense than [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is a less intense version of [second word].</td>
<td>downpour: shower :: feast: meal shower: downpour :: meal: feast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>part/whole or whole/part</td>
<td>The first word is an individual thing or quality; the second word is the whole that the first thing is part of. [First word] is one part of [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is the whole of which [second word] is one part.</td>
<td>finger: hand :: slide: playground hand: finger :: playground: slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>product/producer or producer/product</td>
<td>The first word is a thing; the second word is the person or thing who made the first thing. [first word] is made by [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is made by [second word].</td>
<td>milk: cow :: vase: potter cow: milk :: potter: vase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synonyms</td>
<td>The first word means about the same thing as the second word. [First word] means about the same thing as [second word].</td>
<td>tired: fatigued :: nervous: anxious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

Definitions and parts of speech of these Master Words are based on the usage in the selection in which it appears.

abstract adj. taking place in the realm of thought; conceptual [28]
abyss n. a deep chasm; a bottomless pit [30]
acclaim v. to praise; to honor [3]
accusation n. a charge of wrongdoing; an indictment [15]
acquiescence n. reluctant acceptance without complaint [27]
adornment n. beautification; decoration [20]
aesthetic adj. related to the study of the arts and of beauty; artistic [25]
affectation adj. showing fondness; devoted [8]
afronted adj. insulted; offended [5]
sift adv. near the stem or tail, usually of a boat [8]
agitator n. a person who spurs others to rebellion or protest; troublemaker [16]
allusion n. an indirect reference; a hint; an implied reference to something familiar [5]
allegiance n. a measure of the height or elevation above sea level [7]
alogous adj. comparable; similar [28]
analytic adj. logical; systematic [17]
ancestral adj. related to those from whom one is descended; traditional [6]
anchor v. to fasten something to keep it from moving; to secure [21]
androgynous adj. of indeterminate sex; partly male and partly female [13]
aneedote n. a short story, usually entertaining and frequently amusing; a short account [14]
anguished adj. distressed; heartbroken [2]
antropologist n. a scientist or person who studies cultures and societies [17]
apartheid n. a system of racial segregation in South Africa; literally "separatness" [9]
appraisal n. an assessment of value; valuation [15]
artful adj. crafty; cunning [27]
aspect adj. related to a life of extreme self-denial; Spartan; austere [8]
assurance n. confidence; calmness [7]
atune v. to harmonize; to adjust [22]
audacious adj. daring; adventurous [2]
avarice adj. miserly desire for wealth; greed [22]
baleful adj. harmful; noxious [16]
bard n. poet [24]
base adj. low; ignoble; sinful [11]
bier n. a platform on which a corpse or coffin is placed before burial [23]
blight n. a decline; a withering [22]
capricious adj. given to sudden changes in mood; fickle [6]
casual adj. informal; nonchalant [3]
cavalier adj. showing a lack of concern for rules or proper behavior; casual [10]
ceremonious adj. formal; befitting [23]
chafe v. to rub; to irritate by rubbing; to heat by friction [4]
chalice n. a cup [12]
chaotic adj. in a confused state; disordered [30]
cherubim n. plural form of cherub; angel; celestial being [12]
clarify v. to explain; to make clear [17]
cloyed adj. having too much of a good thing; weary; satiated [11]
 coercion n. force; threats [1]
commend v. to deliver; to entrust [12]
commerce n. the buying and selling of goods; business [23]
commodity n. a product that can be bought and sold [9]
compensating adj. balancing; redeeming [29]
compliance n. obedience to; acceptance [27]
compose v. to make up (a whole); to constitute [21]
concur v. to agree; to coincide; to act together [5]
confluence n. junction, especially of two rivers; meeting [4]
consoling adj. comforting; encouraging [22]
contemplation n. meditation; thought [30]
contrive v. to plan; to come up with [29]
conversely adv. in turn; on the other hand [25]
convincing adj. believable [19]
correspond v. to match or agree; to be equivalent; to be comparable [4]
courier n. a messenger [12]
course n. a movement along a path; a progression of steps [5]
crest v. to reach the highest level; to peak [18]
cumbrous adj. difficult; to manage; clumsy [28]
dearth n. lack; scarcity; a shortage [14]
debase adj. reduced in value [15]
deceit n. deception; trickery [1]
deflect v. to turn aside or bounce off course; to divert [18]
degraded adj. reduced in quality; humiliated [24]
deliberative adj. having the function of considering, judging, or carefully deciding; carefully thinking out [15]
delusive adj. giving a false impression; deceptive [26]
demise n. death; end [13]
derive v. to stem from; to originate [9]
desolate adj. dismal; lonely [11]
diabolic adj. evil; devilish [18]
diaphanous adj. see-through; fine [8]
dilapidation n. condition of rot or disrepair [22]
diminutive adj. small; tiny [7]
discount v. to regard something as false or not worthy of examination; to dismiss [19]
dispel v. to do away with; to remove; to get rid of [5]
distilled adj. purified; refined [7]
ditty n. a simple song [11]
dominance n. power; supremacy [2]
dominate v. to influence; to control [6]
dormant adj. inactive; inert; sleeping [18]
draw n. attraction [23]
dreadful adj. awful; fearful [3]
dynamic adj. in motion; changing [28]
dynastic adj. of the ordinary, strange [14]
eccentric adj. frugal; thrifty; not wasteful [14]
efficacy n. ability to work or perform; potency [2]
elite n. people of higher classes; aristocracy [25]
 elusive adj. hard to find; intangible [24]
emerge v. to come out; to unfold [30]
empyrean adj. heavenly; celestial [24]
enamored adj. in love with; captivated by [20]
enfold v. to envelop; to surround [30]
enigma n. a mysterious situation; a riddle; a puzzle [17]
ennobling adj. elevating to a higher degree; dignifying; enlightening [25]
enure v. to raise from; to follow after [16]
establishment n. the ruling class of a society; the authorities in power [9]
expert adj. impartial; balanced and fair [12]
exclusive adj. having sole rights; belonging to no one else; also, high-class; upscale; select [20]

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express v. to represent in words; to convey [21]

extenuate v. to downplay; to excuse [26]

exultation n. happiness; gladness [4]

ferment n. turmoil; unrest [9]

firsthand adj. direct from experience or the original source; eyewitness [19]

flawless adj. free of blemishes; perfect [3]

foliage n. the leaves of plants [7]

foreshadow v. to suggest a future event; to anticipate [13]

formative adj. pertaining to development; capable of being shaped [29]

formidable adj. difficult; challenging [2]

forsaken adj. abandoned; solitary [3]

fragile adj. shaky; unreliable [21]

franchise n. a license given to an individual or group to conduct a specific business [20]

frantic adj. nervous; anxious [21]

furrow n. a row made by a plow for planting seeds; a trench [1]

garland n. a wreath of leaves or flowers worn as an honor [11]

grave adj. somber; dignified [14]

grotesque adj. outrageous; shocking [9]

guardian n. a protector; a person who looks after something [26]

heifer n. a young cow [11]

helm n. the name of a ship; a ship's steering wheel [16]

idleness n. the state of not working; laziness [6]

idyllic adj. related to an ideal time or place; idealized; sentimental [26]

imolate v. to sacrifice [22]

immunity n. the protection of a person from harm [15]

impel v. to drive; to do something; to move [30]

Impetuous adj. acting with sudden energy; sometimes without thought; rushing with force [4]

impinge v. to encroach or invade; to collide; to infringe upon [4]

impute v. to ascribe or attribute; to charge someone with an action, especially a negative act [5]

incipient adj. in an initial stage; developing [6]

incongruous adj. inappropriate; unsuitable [27]

incorruptible adj. pure; incapable of being corrupted or made sinful [29]

indispensable adj. necessary; crucial [23]

indulge v. to give in to an action or feeling; to give free reign to [1]

inexorable adj. unrelenting; destined; inescapable [18]

infallible adj. perfect; without error [19]

infraction n. a violation of a law or rule; a transgression [27]

ingot n. a block of metal such as gold or silver [21]

inkling n. a vague idea; a hint [19]

innovator n. one who creates new things; pioneer; a groundbreaker [2]

insinuate v. to hint indirectly; to imply [5]

inspiration n. a spur to action; encouragement [9]

interminable adj. endless; infinite [8]

interposition n. mediation; intervention [26]

intimate adj. close; personal [6]

intractable adj. difficult; troublesome [10]

intuitive adj. capable of gaining knowledge without the use of reason; sensitive [17]

inveterate adj. ingrained; deep-rooted; incorrigible [16]

inviolate adj. safe from harm; undamaged [26]

ironical adj. having the quality of being inconsistent or contradictory; incongruous [15]

irresolution n. uncertainty; hesitancy [26]

irretrievable adj. hopeless; beyond recall [25]

jaunty adj. expressing a lively or playful manner; happy-go-lucky [14]

jointly adv. together [10]

labor-intensive adj. needing a large workforce in relation to output [23]

labyrinth n. a maze [3]

languish v. to waste away; to weaken [16]

layer v. to place something on top of another; to make an arrangement in layers [9]

liberate v. to set free; to release [25]

limpid adj. free of anything that might cloud or obscure; clear [7]

low-end adj. of poor quality; cheap [23]

luminous adj. bright; glowing [8]

luxuriance n. excess; abundance [7]

lyre n. a musical instrument; harp [24]

lyric adj. poetic; sweet [9]

magnanimous adj. generous; unselfish [10]

malefactor n. criminal; lawbreaker [16]

malevolent adj. evil-minded; vicious [6]

manpower adj. referring to labor [23]

martyrdom n. the death of a person who is killed for his or her religious or other beliefs [5]

missionary adj. of or related to humanitarian or teaching work for a religion [21]

mode n. manner; method; custom; form [14]

monopoly n. the exclusive control of the sale of a product or service [20]

natal adj. of or related to a person's birth [29]

nautical adj. related to ships and the sea; naval [8]

numbness n. a lack of emotion or expression [21]

obligatory adj. mandatory; required by law [27]

obscured adj. hidden; covered up [15]

odds n. probability; chances [18]

offing n. the part of the sea visible in the distance [8]

opportunity n. taking an opportunity without regard or principle or values; exploitation [15]

optimism adj. the best [17]

outset n. beginning; start [18]

paeon n. a song of triumph or thanksgiving in honor of a Greek god [24]

palatial adj. resembling a palace; grand; opulent [20]

parching adj. thirsty [11]

parsimonious adj. miserly; penny-pinching [22]

party n. a political group; a camp [10]

pastoral n. a work or art that deals with the simple rural life of shepherds [11]

patronage adj. related to a society ruled by men [13]

pernicious adj. evil; damaging; dangerous [1]

perpetual adj. never-ending; permanent [6]

personified adj. manifested in the form of a person; embodied [8]

phenomena n. plural of phenomenon; an observable event or object; an occurrence [17]

picturesque adj. charming; strikingly unusual; suitable for a picture [22]

piety n. religious devotion; faith [1]

pious adj. showing reverence to God; divine [11]

pivot n. a central point; turning point [18]

placid adj. calm; peaceful [8]

plague v. to annoy; to afflict [12]

plausible adj. having a reasonable or probable appearance; believable [27]

plead v. to argue on behalf of someone; to support; to persuade [12]

plunder n. stolen goods; loot [11]