For angering Minos, king of Crete, the great inventor Daedalus was imprisoned, along with his son, in the labyrinth that he himself had constructed. But prison bars and locks did not exist that were strong enough to baffle this master craftsman, and from the tower in which they were shut, Daedalus and his son soon escaped. To escape from Crete was a more formidable task, for Minos had spies watching all boats leaving the island. But while gazing at seagulls from their hiding place, the great innovator had an idea.

He fashioned light frames from wood and attached feathers to them with wax until at length they looked like the wings of a great eagle. The mechanism was so perfect that on his first attempt, Daedalus found that he could fly even as a bird. He made a second pair for Icarus, and, circling round him like a mother bird that teaches her fledgling how to fly, Daedalus, showed Icarus how he might subjugate the air currents and make them do his bidding.

That was a joyous day for father and son, for the father had never before drunk deeper of the intoxicating wine of success. For the lad it was pure joy. Never before had he known such freedom and dominance.

One word of counsel only did Daedalus give. “Beware, dear son of my heart,” he said, “lest in thy new-found power thou seekest to soar even to the gates of Olympus. For surely, when the scorching rays of the chariot of Apollo smite thy wings, the wax that binds the feathers will melt, and then will come upon thee and on me woeful unutterable.”

Gentle rosy-fingered Dawn was making her way up from the East when Daedalus and Icarus began their flight to freedom.

Like a bird that wheels and soars and dives as if for lightness of heart, so did Icarus fly. Down, down, he darted, so near the water that almost the white-tipped waves caught at his wings as he skimmed over them. Then up, up, up he soared, ever higher, higher still, and when he saw the radiant sun-god smiling down on him, the warning of Daedalus was forgotten. As he had excelled other lads in foot races, now did Icarus wish to excel the birds themselves. He left Daedalus far behind, and still upwards he mounted. He felt he could storm Olympus and race Apollo to the trackless seas of the unknown West.

In terror his father watched. As he called to Icarus in a voice of anguished warning, there befell the dreaded thing. It appears as if the wings had begun to lose their efficacy. Like a wounded bird Icarus fluttered, lunged sideways, recovered himself, and fluttered again. Then, like a bird into whose soft breast an archer’s arrow had been driven, downwards he plummeted. Turning over and over, downwards, ever downwards, he fell with a plunge into the sea.

Then did the car of Apollo drive on. His rays had slain one who was too audacious, and now they caressed the little white feathers that had fallen from the broken wings and floated on the water like the petals of a torn flower.

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**Exercise 1: Context Clues**

Read the passage above, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>anguished</th>
<th>dominance</th>
<th>formidable</th>
<th>smite</th>
<th>unutterable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>audacious</td>
<td>efficacy</td>
<td>innovator</td>
<td>subjugate</td>
<td>wheel</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. **anguished** Part of Speech: adj. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

2. **audacious** Part of Speech: adj. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

3. **dominance** Part of Speech: n. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

4. **efficacy** Part of Speech: n. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

5. **formidable** Part of Speech: adj. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

6. **innovator** Part of Speech: n. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

7. **smite** Part of Speech: v. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

8. **subjugate** Part of Speech: v. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

9. **unutterable** Part of Speech: adj. Context Clues: ____________________________
   
   Your Definition: ____________________________
   
   Dictionary Definition: ____________________________

10. **wheel** Part of Speech: v. Context Clues: ____________________________
    
    Your Definition: ____________________________
    
    Dictionary Definition: ____________________________
**Exercise 3: Using Synonyms**

The words in bold type in the sentences below are synonyms of the Master Words. On the line below each sentence, write a new sentence using Master Words in place of the words in bold type.

1. Ancient Rome **conquered** most of Europe and had **power** over the people who lived there.

2. Julius Caesar was a **daring** leader who set out to **attack** the enemies of Rome.

3. Steve Jobs was a **pioneer** who relished the **challenging** task of defining the digital future.

4. The **heartbroken** parents whose children died in the earthquake shared an **unspeakable** grief.

---

**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 alpha wolf exerts its ...?... over the other wolves in the pack.

2. The ...?... of the flashlight diminishes when the batteries start to wear out.

3. The actors practiced ways to ...?... one another with their fake swords.

4. Alexander the Great was able to ...?... the Persian Empire.

5. Sailing alone around the world is (a, an) ...?... goal few have achieved.

6. The ...?... rescue workers searched for survivors after the building collapsed.

7. Every morning, the hawk would ...?... overhead looking for prey.

8. Her eyes showed the ...?... sadness that she felt when her mother died.

9. Luis is (a, an) ...?... when it comes to performing new skateboard tricks.

10. Completing his tricks without injury is (a, an) ...?... task.
Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or nuances. Based on the context, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>anguished</th>
<th>audacious</th>
<th>formidable</th>
<th>subjugate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pained</td>
<td>bold</td>
<td>challenging</td>
<td>defeat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Climbing Mt. Everest is (a, an) ...?... task even for experienced climbers.

2. Tony has the ...?... dream of playing professional basketball.

3. Our soccer team has been able to ...?... every opponent this season.

4. The death of two firefighters stirred ...?... reactions in the small community.

5. The process of applying to college can be (a, an) ...?... task.

6. After the loss, each member of the team wore (a, an) ...?... expression.

7. Hitler failed in his attempt to ...?... all of Europe.

8. Lynn made (a, an) ...?... statement by painting her living room wall red.

Exercise 5: Personification

In Greek mythology there is extensive use of personification, a figure of speech that gives human or animal qualities to ideas or inanimate objects. For example, the sun is portrayed as the “chariot of Apollo” whose rays might smite Icarus like a human attacker would strike a foe.

In the organizer below, write other examples of personification from the myth. Then explain each figure in the second column. An example has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text of Personification</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gentle rosy-fingered Dawn was making her way up from the East.</td>
<td>The rising sun is portrayed as a woman with rosy fingers climbing across the sky.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write About It: Teaching a Lesson

The myth of Icarus teaches a lesson about humans who attempt to exceed the boundaries of their abilities and tempt fate. Write a brief narrative that teaches a similar lesson using a more realistic contemporary situation. Use at least five Master Words or words related to the Master Words. Include a clear beginning, middle, and ending to your narrative.
### 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] is what gets done 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/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. 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]
affectionate adj. showing fondness; devoted [8]
affronted adj. insulted; offended [5]
afford v. near the stern 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]
atmosphere 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]
anecdote 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 "separateness" [9]
appraisal n. an assessment of value; valuation [15]
artful adj. crafty; cunning [27]
ascetic adj. related to a life of extreme self-denial; Spartan; austere [8]
assurance n. confidence; calmness [7]
attune v. to harmonize; to adjust [22]
audacious adj. daring; adventurous [2]
avaricious adj. miserly desire for wealth; greed [22]
bleak adj. harmful; noxious [16]
branch n. pet [24]
base adj. low; ignoble; sinful [1]
bear 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]
clearify v. to explain; to make clear [17]
cloyed adj. having too much of a good thing; weary; satiated [11]
coercion n. force; threats [1]
command 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]
concinnity v. to agree; to coincide; to act together [5]
confluence n. junction, especially of two rivers; meeting [14]
consoling adj. comforting; encouraging [23]
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]
deart n. lack; scarcity; a shortage [14]
debased adj. reduced in value [15]
decent adj. deception; trickery [11]
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; faint [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]
domination 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]
designer adj. out of the ordinary; strange [14]
economioc 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]
emphasize 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]
enjoy v. to result from; to follow after [16]
establishment n. the ruling class of a society; the authorities in power [9]
evenhanded adj. impartial; balanced and fair [12]
exclusive adj. having sole rights; belonging to no one else; also, high-class; upscale; select [20]
polymath n. a person with wide knowledge in many subject areas; an academic [19]
ponderous adj. heavy [30]
precarious adj. not certain; delicately in balance; suggesting danger [14]
presuppose v. to assume beforehand; to require in advance [27]
prevailing adj. current; existing [16]
profusion n. abundance; a great amount [7]
progenitor n. parent; originator [18]
progeny n. offspring; children [13]
prohibitive adj. excessive; restrictive [28]
propriety n. the state of conforming to expected behavior; correctness [14]
prostrate v. to throw oneself down in submission or humility [26]
pulverize v. to reduce to fine powder; to disintegrate; to smash [4]
qualitative adj. related to the traits, rather than amount, of something [28]
quantitative adj. related to the amount, rather than traits, of something [28]
recollect v. to remember; to give consideration [5]
recommender v. to make observations for military purposes [19]
redress n. compensation or payment for a wrong done; remedy [15]
refugee n. one who flees a country to avoid persecution or warfare [21]
regime n. government [9]
reject n. something of low value; something discarded [23]
relieve v. to free from burden; to remove a pressure [14]
remonstrate v. to complain; to object [26]
remorseless adj. cruel; heartless; inhuman [13]
renown n. the condition of being famous; fame [20]
resent v. to object to something in a strong way; to feel bitter about; to begrudge [6]
restraint n. the act of controlling one's thoughts or actions; caution; inhibition [5]
restrictive adj. imposing limits; hindering [10]
retort n. a quick reply, as to an accusation; a comeback [5]
reverent adj. respectful; devout; fruitful [3]
rhetorical adj. argumentative; overblown [25]
saunter v. to walk idly with no special concern; to amble [4]
scintillate v. to twinkle; to shine [7]
scoff n. a shrew; a mean lady [22]
scurge n. the cause of suffering or a calamity; plague [16]
scrupulous adj. extremely careful; mindful [5]
sector n. a part created by division of something; a faction [10]
seer n. a person with profound insight; an oracle [24]
sensible adj. responsible; down-to-earth; practical [3]
sensual adj. having to do with the senses; tangible [11]
servile adj. subjected to slavery; oppressed [24]
simultaneous adj. happening at the same time; concurrent [20]
skepticism n. a questioning attitude; doubt [19]
smithe v. to hit; to attack [2]
sneer v. to jeer or scoff, sometimes with laughter or facial expressions of contempt [29]
soln. n. a visit; the act of living in a place for a while [7]
solidify v. to become solid or compact; to reinforce; to strengthen [29]
soliloquy n. a speech delivered while alone; monologue [20]
somnambulist n. a sleepwalker [13]
spurned adj. rejected; cast aside [26]
staid adj. serious; sober [4]
standing adj. permanent; fixed [10]
staple n. a principal commodity, that which is most important and necessary [29]
static adj. stationary; at rest [28]
stylist n. related to the river Styx and to hell; dark; somber [1]
subcontinent n. a large recognizable part of a continent [19]
subjugate v. to conquer; to bring under one's control [2]
subtlety n. nuance; intelligence; intricacy [18]
subverted adj. disrupted; overturned [13]
supine adj. flat on one's back [26]
suppliant n. one who asks for something; a beggar; a petitioner [1]
supremacy n. a position of power or superiority [29]
surcease n. an end; death [12]
surmise v. to guess; to infer [16]
sylvan adj. having to do with the forest; rural; pastoral [11]
symbolic adj. involving numbers, letters, etc., that stand for something else [28]
telling adj. revealing; striking [13]
tentative adj. not final; provisional; trial [17]
theoretical adj. academic; abstract; hypothetical [10]
title n. an office; a rank or position in an organization or society [6]
tolerate v. to put up with; to accept [20]
trammel v. to hamper; to bind; to ensnare [12]
tranquil adj. peaceful; serene; quiet; undisturbed [4]
tremulous adj. shaking; quivering; shivering [17]
triangulated adj. forming a triangle [23]
trivial adj. of no importance; superficial; silly [17]
tumult n. confusion; disorder [30]
unbecoming adj. unworthy; unsuitable [15]
undertone n. a muted tone hard to hear; an undercurrent [24]
unmindful adj. forgetful [10]
unprincipled adj. without any rules of conduct; immoral [27]
unsavory adj. unpleasant; revolting [13]
unacceptable adj. too awful to put into words; horrible [21]
unutterable adj. too horrible to describe; unacceptable [2]
usurp v. to take through force or illegal means; to seize [27]
utilitarian adj. functional; practical [28]
upshot n. a person hoping to achieve an ideal world; a dreamer; an enthusiast [25]
valorous adj. courageous [24]
vanity n. conceit; excess of pride; self-love [29]
vaulting adj. overreaching; ambitious [12]
venerable adj. worthy of reverence and respect [22]
vigilant adj. alert to danger; watchful [26]
vouchsafe v. to give; to grant [30]
wheel v. to fly in a circle [2]
zombified adj. deprived of vitality; robbed of human qualities [25]