When I was about six years old, my father heard of an eminent oculist in Baltimore, who had been successful in many cases that had seemed hopeless. My parents at once determined to take me to Baltimore to see if anything could be done for my eyes.

The journey, which I remember well, was very pleasant. I made friends with many people on the train. One lady gave me a box of shells. My father made holes in these so that I could string them, and for a long time they kept me happy and contented. The conductor, too, was kind. Often when he went his rounds I clung to his coat tails while he collected and punched the tickets. His punch, with which he let me play, was a delightful toy. Curled up in a corner of the seat, I amused myself for hours making funny little holes in bits of cardboard.

My aunt made me a big doll out of towels. It was the most comical, shapeless thing, this improvised doll, with no nose, mouth, ears or eyes—nothing that even the imagination of a child could convert into a face. Curiously enough, the absence of eyes struck me more than all the other defects put together. I pointed this out to everybody with provoking persistency, but no one seemed equal to the task of providing the doll with eyes. A bright idea, however, shot into my mind, and the problem was solved. I tumbled off the seat and searched under it until I found my aunt's cape, which was trimmed with large beads. I pulled two beads off and indicated to her that I wanted her to sew them on my doll. She raised my hand to her eyes in a questioning way, and I nodded energetically. The beads were sewed in the right place and I could not contain myself for joy; but immediately I lost all interest in the doll. During the whole trip I did not have one fit of temper; there were so many things to keep my mind and fingers busy.

When we arrived in Baltimore, Dr. Chisholm received us kindly; but he could do nothing. He said, however, that I could be educated, and advised my father to consult Dr. Alexander Graham Bell of Washington, who would be able to give him information about schools and teachers of deaf or blind children. Acting on the doctor's advice, we went immediately to Washington to see Dr. Bell, my father with a sad heart and many misgivings, wholly unconscious of his anguish, finding pleasure in the excitement of moving from place to place. Child as I was, I at once felt the tenderness and sympathy which endeared Dr. Bell to so many hearts, as his wonderful achievements enlisted their admiration. He held me on his knee while I examined his watch, and he made it strike for me. He understood my signs, and I knew it and loved him at once. But I did not dream that that interview would be the door through which I should pass from darkness into light, from isolation to friendship, companionship, knowledge, love.

**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**

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

| consult | eminent | enlist | misgiving | provoking |
| defect | endear | improvised | persistence | wholly |
### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Context Clues</th>
<th>Your Definition</th>
<th>Dictionary Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>consult</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defect</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eminent</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endear</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enlist</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>improvised</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misgiving</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>persistence</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provoking</td>
<td>adj</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wholly</td>
<td>adv</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 3: Using Words in Context

Correct or Incorrect: Write C on the line if the word is used correctly; write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. Full of defects, Kat’s original sculpture won first place in the contest.
2. The black clouds on the horizon showed that the thunderstorm was eminent.
3. The kitten was quite a handful, but she endeared her owners with her gentle purr.
4. The actors delivered their improvised and carefully memorized lines with energy.
5. Mia’s thoughtless and provoking words started a huge argument.
6. Zack’s persistence kept him from giving up on baseball too quickly.
7. The new homeowners will consult their neighbors before building a fence around their property.
8. With each new misgiving, Saundra grew more and more confident.
9. Forrest’s older brother gladly enlisted in the effort to elect a new senator.
10. To our relief, the policeman said that the truck driver was wholly responsible for the accident.

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. My dad decided to ...?... my help to get my mom to take a break from work.
2. The charges against the defendant were ...?... unfounded.
3. Often (a, an) ...?... in vision may be corrected with contacts.
4. When in doubt, ...?... an expert to get a reliable viewpoint.
5. Lou’s ...?... finally paid off; he cracked the code.
6. The old man is gruff, but he can ...?... children to himself with his funny faces.
7. With ...?... regularity, Sue attempted to take over the leadership of the group.
8. When Ellie broke her arm during the camping trip, her friends fashioned (a, an) ...?... splint from newspapers.
9. Sheryl had a ...?... about loaning her brother money because he had failed to pay her back in the past.
10. The ...?... historian just published an authoritative biography of Abraham Lincoln.
Exercise 5: Metaphor

In the passage, Helen Keller uses metaphor, a figure of speech that compares essentially unlike things to focus on an important similarity. In the last line of the passage, Keller writes, “But I did not dream that that interview would be the door through which I should pass from darkness into light, from isolation to friendship, companionship, knowledge, love.” In this metaphor, she compares her interview with Alexander Graham Bell to a door, because it opened so many opportunities for her.

In the chart below, write two metaphors that might be used to describe her important interview. Then explain each one in the second column. An example has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metaphor</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>interview was a ticket</td>
<td>The interview gave her entry to new opportunities, just as a ticket gives entry to an event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 6: Related Words and Meanings

The italic words in the sentences below are related to the Master Words. Write the matching synonym from the list on the line following the sentence.

consult          eminent          misgiving         persistence       provoke

1. Nathan had a strong concern about taking his dog to obedience class.  
   
2. He worried that the other dogs would cause Scooter to bark nonstop.  
   
3. Nathan found a class taught by a famous dog trainer.  
   
4. Before the class started, Nathan decided to confer with the trainer to get some tips for preparing Scooter for the class.  
   
5. With determination, Nathan followed the trainer’s tips and by the time class started, Scooter’s unstoppable barking was a thing of the past.  

Write About It: A Narrative Essay

Keller relates a personal experience—a memorable trip that played an important role in her life. Think of an experience in your life that played an important role. Write a vivid, well-structured narrative telling about the experience. Use at least four Master Words or words related to the Master Words.
### 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>
</table>
| action/actor or action/action | 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. | teach: teacher :: sew: needle
teacher: teacher :: needle: sew |
| action/receiver of action   | 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. | teach: student :: sew: dress |
| adjective/related noun or noun/related adjective | 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 for. This could also be constructed in reverse: First word is known to be a second word. | artistic: painter :: cunning: fox
painter: artistic :: fox: cunning |
| antonyms                    | The first word is the opposite of the second word. First word is the opposite of second word. | hot: cold :: sunny: cloudy |
| category/item or item/category | 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. | sports: baseball :: music: jazz
baseball: sports :: jazz: music |
| is used to/for              | The first word is an item; the second word is a thing you do with that item. You use a first word to second word. This could also be constructed in reverse: You use first word with (a, an) second word. | car: drive :: hammer: pound
drive: car :: pound: hammer |
| part/whole or whole/part    | 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. | finger: hand :: slide: playground
hand: finger :: playground: slide |
| product/producer or producer/product | 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 makes second word. | milk: cow :: vase: potter
cow: milk :: potter: vase |
| subject/student of          | The first word is a subject one can study; the second word is the person who studies that subject. First word is what a second word studies. This could also be constructed in reverse: A first word is someone who studies second word. | flower: botanist :: elements: chemist
botanist: flower :: chemist: elements |
| synonyms                    | The first word means about the same thing as the second word. First word means about the same thing as second word. | tired: fatigued :: nervous: anxious |
Glossary of Definitions

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

academy n. school; place of learning [20]
accompany v. to help; to aid [4]
acquainted adj. used to; familiar [1]
acquire v. to gain; to procure [14]
adieu interj. French word used at parting; good-bye [26]
adjust v. to change; to fix something so that it fits or is suited [1]
adorn v. to add beauty to; to make more attractive, especially by use of ornaments [22]
affecting adj. causing emotion; moving [11]
aide n. one who assists a superior [5]
align v. to come to rest; land [17]
allied adj. (a crime or action) said to have taken place; claimed [28]
alter v. to change; to modify [1]
alteration n. change [23]
alternative n. one of two or more choices [18]
ambiguous adj. not clear; having more than one meaning [25]
amble v. walk leisurely; saunter [27]
amiable adj. friendly [23]
analysis n. the process of discovering the qualities and components of something; scrutiny [21]
annoying adj. disturbing or irritating [3]
anthem n. a song of praise; a patriotic song [8]
apparent adj. seeming; supposed [20]
applauding adj. showing approval; approving [5]
apprenticed adj. understood; perceived [26]
appraise v. to inform; to notify [11]
appropriate v. to take for your own purposes; to steal [20]
aspiring adj. trying to achieve something; desiring; hoping [28]
assert v. agree; concede [1]
assemblage n. process of being absorbed into a culture; acculturation [5]
assume v. to take upon oneself [5]
assumption n. something that is taken for granted; belief [4]
atonement n. satisfaction or reparation for a wrong; amends [23]
attracted adj. have a sense of connection with a person, thing, or place; bound [19]
attribute v. to credit; to ascribe to [26]
authority n. a person having power or control; an official [19]
befitting adj. appropriate; suitable [14]
benign adj. beneficial; not harmful [29]
biography n. a work about a person [20]
borne v. past participle of bear; to carry; to endure [14]
bound adj. tied; in bonds; wrapped [17]
boundless adj. having no limits; vast [13]
brief adj. lasting a short period of time [17]
caprice n. sudden change of mind or of behavior; impulse [15]
career n. the course of a person's life, especially in a particular pursuit or profession [5]
cessation n. stop; pause [23]
chronic adj. continuing over a period of time or frequently recurring; lingering; continual [7]
chrysalis n. the hard outer case of the pupa of an insect; a transitional state [4]
clause n. part of a legal document; an article in a treaty or constitution [12]
code n. a set of rules used to translate information from one system to another [25]
coll v. to come up with a new word or phrase [26]
command n. rule; law; demand [13]
conference n. to start; to begin [7]
commission n. a group of people given a certain task to complete; committee [6]
compliant adj. obedient to rules and laws; submissive [12]
component n. a part of something; an element [21]
conceit n. arrogance; an excessive of pride in own accomplishments and abilities [23]
concept n. a general idea; a mental construct [18]
confined adj. limited in scope; restricted [30]
conformity n. action in accordance with some specified standard or authority [3]
consent n. agreement; approval [15]
consult v. to ask for advice; to seek information [2]
contribution n. a gift; effort made in common with others; participation [5]
conventional adj. based on what is normal; accepted; traditional [22]
coping adj. relating to a means or way of adjusting to situations [3]
corps n. a group of people under common leadership [10]
courteous adj. marked by good manners; considerate [27]
cove n. a sheltered area (in a forest); also, a small sheltered bay [29]
curator n. a person who oversees a museum or art collection [20]
debris n. litter; rubble [29]
deceptive adj. tending to mislead by a false appearance; misleading [18]
deem v. to consider; to think [11]
defect n. an imperfection; a fault [2]
defection n. the act of turning from one's loyalty, duty, friends, etc. [9]
definitive adj. being the most complete or most accurate; authoritative [20]
demur v. disagree; object on the basis of values or morals [11]
departure n. a moving away from the norm; a change [22]
dependence n. state of needing help from someone; reliance [11]
derisive adj. characterized by ridicule, mockery, scornful laughter [16]
despair v. give up; surrender [13]
detachment n. an attitude of disinterest or aloofness [27]
device n. to make; to create [15]
dialect n. language particular to a certain location; here used as adj. [26]
directive n. command; instruction [25]
discerning adj. clear-eyed; perceptive [1]
discipline n. training which strengthens the character; controlled behavior [7]
disclose v. to expose or reveal; to make known [9]
disinterested adj. not influenced by selfish desire; detached [23]
dispatch v. to send off [11]
disperse v. to spread out from a point; (physics) divide into parts [21]
displace v. to take the place of something; to dislodge [26]
disposal n. control or command, as of funds or goods to be given out [9]
disposition n. attitude; state of mind [14]
disrupt v. to cause to break apart or stop; to disturb [29]
dissonant adj. lack of harmony; harsh sounding [13]
distinct adj. set apart; unequal [14]
diverge v. to move in different directions from a common point [18]
drill n. strict training involving much repetition [10]
economic adj. relating to the production, distribution, and use of wealth; financial [30]
elation n. state in which the spirits are high, as from joy [16]

©Perfection Learning® • No Reproduction Permitted. 159
ornithologist n. a person who studies birds [19]

orthodox adj. conforming to an accepted standard; conventional; approved [7]

pall v. to make weary; to make dull [15]

paralyzed adj. unable to move; helpless; stunned; amazed [19]

parasite n. a life form that lives off of another; leech [26]

pathetic adj. stirring up pity or sorrow [30]

pedestal n. a platform for an object such as a statue [13]

pedigree n. a record of ancestors; lineage [26]

perceive v. to see; to understand [14]

perpetuity n. endless duration; into the distant future [12]

perspective n. the act of remaining determined despite opposition; determination [2]

persona n. character; identity [28]

phenomenon n. remarkable event or person; occurrence [26]

post n. a position, usually in a government office; a duty [14]

preceding adj. going before; previous [10]

precise adj. exact; well defined [22]

presence n. company; existing in near proximity [17]

preservation n. the process of keeping alive, safe, or whole; to maintain [18]

prevail v. to be greater in strength; to win [1]

primordial adj. existing at the beginning; ancient [25]

principle n. an established rule of conduct; standard of behavior; belief [5]

procure v. to acquire; to see to [24]

prospect n. outlook; expectation [11]

provision n. part of a legal document, law, etc., that states terms or restrictions [30]

provoking adj. moving to anger or action; arousing [2]

prudence n. skillful management of practical matters; good judgment [9]

psyche n. mind or soul [3]

pursuit n. search; quest [22]

quaint adj. peculiar in a pleasing, interesting, or old-fashioned way [8]

rambling adj. spread irregularly or unevenly in several directions [8]

random adj. aimless; without order or purpose [19]

range n. vary between two points; extend [21]

rash adj. reckless, impulsive [24]

ration n. an allowance or share, particularly a daily allowance of food or supplies [7]

readiness n. state of being ready or prepared [5]

rearrange v. to put back in order; to change the position of something [7]

reconnaissance n. inspection; investigation [12]

redress n. the act of setting right a wrong; amends [30]

relinquishment n. a giving up; a surrender [12]

remorse n. painful regret for a wrongdoing; mental anguish caused by guilt [30]

render v. to give; to supply [11]

replicate v. to make an exact copy; duplicate; reproduce [25]

repose n. sleep; rest [24]

reserve n. hidden supply; asset [15]

residential adj. reserved for homes; not commercial [27]

resort v. turn to; have recourse; to stoop down [5]

reveal v. to show; to disclose [15]

reverberate v. to have continuing influence; echo [28]

rite n. ceremony, such as a wedding or religious service [24]

ritualistic adj. related to a rite or ceremony; ceremonial [22]

root v. search for food in the ground with snout; dig; forage [29]

satiated adj. supplied with too much, often producing feelings of disgust [30]

scale n. thin coating on the surface of something; covering [29]

seclusion n. state of being separated from others; isolation; retirement; solitude [9]

secure v. to succeed in gaining something; obtain [30]

serene adj. peaceful; calm; tranquil [8]

sheer adj. unmixed with anything else; pure; unqualified; absolute [10]

significant adj. important; having a special meaning [9]

site n. a location, such as the place where someone lives [19]

slowly adj. untidy or messy; careless or slipshod [7]

snobbery n. behavior in which belittles those considered inferior; arrogance [16]

sounding n. a measurement of the depth of water [6]

species n. type [11]

spectrum n. the entire range of colors or wavelengths of light; the extent of something [21]

spontaneous adj. arising on its own; unprompted [26]

sprig n. a small twig or stalk of a plant, usually with flowers; shoot [29]

stampede v. to cause a sudden rush of startled animals or a crowd of people, etc. [9]

standstill n. situation in which there is no movement; dead stop [17]

stark adj. severe; grim; absolute [1]

sustain v. to keep going; to manage [11]

substantial adj. real; true; also, of considerable size or importance [24]

subtle adj. discreet; clever; skillful [16]

sufficient adj. plenty of; enough [23]

survey v. to take a broad, comprehensive view of a situation; to examine [16]

sweltering adj. oppressively hot [27]

talent n. a natural or acquired ability or gift [5]

technique n. a specific way to make something or carry out a task; method [22]

tendency n. an inclination toward a certain manner or belief; a leaning [22]

tête-à-tête n. private conversation; chat [23]

theme n. an idea or topic addressed in a work or movement; a concern [22]

transfixed adj. made motionless, as with amazement, terror, etc.; held in one position [8]

tyrannical adj. cruel; harsh; oppressive [27]

unacceptable adj. not satisfactory; intolerable [6]

uncouth adj. unsophisticated; without grace [14]

underestimate v. to minimize; to value something to low [4]

unrestrained adj. not hindered by limits; uncontrolled [18]

vague adj. not clearly defined; indistinct [7]

validity n. legality; lawfulness; authority [12]

verdict n. legal decision; judgment [28]

vicious n. a location near a place; area [6]

visage n. face; appearance [13]

volatile adj. easily changed, usually for the worse; explosive [28]

voracious adj. craving food; greedy; ravenous; also, eager in pursuing any desire [7]

wary adj. on guard; suspicious; leery [19]

wholly adv. completely; entirely [2]

witness v. to see; to observe [11]

works n. achievements; creations; handiwork [13]

yoke n. something that binds or enslaves a person; bondage [4]