

Lesson 13

Gettysburg Address (speech) by Abraham Lincoln

Four **score** and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the **proposition** that all men are created equal.

Now we are **engaged** in a great **civil** war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long **endure**. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether **fitting** and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not **consecrate**, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power

to add or **detract**. The world will little **note**, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of **devotion**—that we here highly **resolve** that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

• • 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.

civil	detract	endure	fitting	resolve
consecrate	devotion	engage	proposition	score

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. **civil** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. **consecrate** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

3. **detract** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

4. **devotion** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

5. **endure** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

6. **engage** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

7. **fitting** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

8. **proposition** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

9. **resolve** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

10. **score** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

Exercise 3: Using Words in Context

True or False: Write **T** on the line if the statement is true; write **F** if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. Two decades equal one **score**.
- _____ 2. You have to **endure** the heat when you are in an air-conditioned building.
- _____ 3. At weddings, it is never considered **fitting** for the bride and groom to kiss.
- _____ 4. A teacher who has great **devotion** to her students probably cares a lot about them.
- _____ 5. If you **engage** in a game of volleyball, you are probably one of the players.
- _____ 6. The person called on to **consecrate** a place is usually a doctor or another medical professional.
- _____ 7. Someone who makes a **proposition** is most likely stating facts, not opinions.
- _____ 8. Police officers may be asked to control or end **incidents** of civil unrest.
- _____ 9. Praise is usually used to **detract** from the view others have of a person.
- _____ 10. When people **resolve** to do something, they plan to do it.

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. We ...?... to make sure our city never goes bankrupt again. _____
2. It is ...?... that our oldest resident opened the new senior-citizen home. _____
3. My ears may not be able to ...?... another hour of that singer's shrieking. _____
4. The garden center sells (a, an) ...?... of rose varieties but all twenty have thorns. _____
5. Few have shown more ...?... to saving our parks than our mayor. _____
6. Negative news may ...?... from the opinion we have of the governor. _____
7. People of many faiths came together to ...?... the site where brave heroes fell. _____
8. I do not accept the ...?... that after-school clubs are a waste of money. _____
9. Sometimes the dog and cat ...?... in a fight, but usually they're friends. _____
10. They fought to protect the ...?... rights guaranteed to all citizens. _____

Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

Each of the Master Words in bold type in these sentences has a different meaning from its use in the original passage. For each word, note the part of speech and write your definition of the word as it is used in the sentence. Then write the dictionary definition.

1. It is always best to be **civil**, even when you are tempted to be rude.

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. At the **fitting**, Carolyn tried on the bridal gown and the seamstress pinned the hem.

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

3. Instead of giving up the struggle, he showed great **resolve** to continue to victory.

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

4. The **score** was tied at 10-10 with only seconds left to play.

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

Exercise 6: Analogies

Determine the relationship between the first pair of words below. Then write the Master Word on the blank that would create a similar relationship with the second pair of words. The types of analogies used are adjective/related noun, antonyms, synonyms, and degree. (See page 158 for a guide to analogy types.)

1. insult : devastate :: _____ : ruin
2. urban : city :: _____ : citizen
3. decade : ten :: _____ : twenty
4. wait : act :: hesitate : _____
5. praise : compliment :: bless : _____

Write About It: Speech with an Allusion

Write a speech about an event in American history. Open with an allusion to an earlier historical event, as Lincoln does when he alludes to the signing of the Declaration of Independence "Four score and seven years ago." Use at least three Master Words.