

# LESSON 14

adapted from **Robinson Crusoe** (fiction)  
by Daniel Defoe

All my life I had desired nothing save but to go to sea. Both my father and my mother thought ill of such a plan and set about to fit me for the law. Being one day at Hull, having no idea of leaving home immediately, I chanced upon a companion who was about to sail to London in his father's ship. With that bait common to seafaring men, namely that my passage should cost me nothing, he prompted me to go with them. I sought **counsel** of neither my father nor my mother, nor so much as sent them word of my leaving. Without asking God's blessing or my father's, and without a thought to the future, on the first of September, 1651, I went on board a ship bound for London.

Never any young adventurer's misfortunes, I believe, began sooner or continued longer than mine. The ship had no sooner gotten out of the Humber, but the wind began to blow, and the waves to rise in a most frightful manner. As I had never been at sea before, I was most **drastically** sick in body, and terrified in mind. I began now seriously to reflect upon what I had done, and how **justly** I was **overtaken** by the judgment of Heaven for my wickedness in leaving my father's house, and abandoning my duty. All the good

counsel of my parents, my father's tears and my mother's entreaties, came now fresh into my mind. My conscience chastised me for my **contempt** of advice, and the **breach** of my duty to God and my father.

All this while the storm increased, and the sea went very high, though nothing like what I have seen many times since; no, nor what I saw a few days after. But it was enough to affect me then, being but a young sailor. I expected every wave would have swallowed us up, and that every time the ship fell down, as I thought it did, in the trough or hollow of the sea, we should never rise more. In this agony of mind, I made many vows and resolutions that if it would please God to spare my life in this one voyage, if ever I got my foot upon dry land again, I would go directly home to my father, and never sail in a ship again while I lived. I would take his advice, and never run myself into such miseries as these any more. Now I saw plainly how comfortably he had lived all his days, and how he had never been **exposed** to **tempests** at sea or troubles on shore; and I resolved that I would, like a true **repenting prodigal**, go home to my father.

## 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.

breach	counsel	expose	overtake	repenting
contempt	drastic	just	prodigal	tempest

## 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. **breach** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **contempt** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **counsel** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **drastic** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **expose** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **just** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **overtake** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **prodigal** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **repenting** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **tempest** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks.

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. <b>counsel</b>	_____	_____
2. <b>just</b>	_____	_____
3. <b>prodigal</b>	_____	_____
4. <b>overtake</b>	_____	_____
5. <b>contempt</b>	_____	_____
6. <b>tempest</b>	_____	_____
7. <b>expose</b>	_____	_____
8. <b>drastic</b>	_____	_____
9. <b>repenting</b>	_____	_____
10. <b>breach</b>	_____	_____

Word List	
advice	respect
atoning	risk
calm	saint
catch	scorn
deserved	slight
extreme	storm
gloating	trail
misguidance	unfair
obedience	violation
protect	wastrel

### 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.

- Before choosing a college, she sought the ...?... of her teachers. \_\_\_\_\_
- A few yards from the finish line, Mia was able to ...?... the lead runner. \_\_\_\_\_
- The ...?... criminal gave donations to charity to atone for his crimes. \_\_\_\_\_
- A sudden ...?... blew up at sea, nearly sinking the ship. \_\_\_\_\_
- After breaking the agreement, the actor was sued for ...?... of contract. \_\_\_\_\_
- She expressed ...?... for lazy workers who do not do their jobs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Shall we make minor changes, or should the changes be more ...?... ? \_\_\_\_\_
- The ...?... inherited a great deal of money that he soon wasted. \_\_\_\_\_
- You can wear a mask if you do not want to ...?... yourself to germs. \_\_\_\_\_
- A ...?... punishment is neither too lenient nor too harsh. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5: Related Words and Meanings

Words that are related in form are usually related in meaning, so knowing the meaning of one form can help you figure out the meaning of another. For example, the word *unjust* has the same form as the Master Word *just* except that the prefix *un-*, meaning "not," has been added. So if you know that *just* means "fair," you can figure out that *unjust* means "unfair."

The chart below lists forms of the Master Words that have added prefixes and suffixes. Use your knowledge of the Master Words to help you figure out what these related words mean. Write each meaning in the space provided. Then check your answers in a dictionary.

Related Word	Meaning
1. prodigally (adverb)	_____
2. tempestuous (adjective)	_____
3. unrepentant (adjective)	_____
4. counselor (noun)	_____
5. exposure (noun)	_____

## Exercise 6: Biblical Allusions

The phrase "repenting prodigal," used at the end of the passage from *Robinson Crusoe*, is a biblical allusion. It refers to a parable told by Jesus in the New Testament, in which a black sheep returns to his father's home and is forgiven for his bad behavior. In comparing himself to the prodigal son, Robinson Crusoe stresses how foolish he now feels for disobeying his parents and going to sea.

Write the origin and meaning of each allusion in bold print in the sentences below. If necessary, use the Internet or a dictionary to help you. Use the example as a model.

**Example:** The island is beautiful, but it is no **Eden**.

Meaning: paradise

Origin: the Garden of Eden, the paradise that was home to Adam and Eve, the first human beings

1. Thankfully a **good Samaritan** saw him fall into the gully.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The story is about Harriet Tubman, the **Moses** of her people, who helped so many slaves escape to freedom.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

## Write About It: First-Person Narrative

Write a brief narrative explaining your plans for the future. You might write as yourself or as a fictional character like Robinson Crusoe. Either way, tell your plans using first-person pronouns such as *I* and *me*. Use at least three Master Words, and include transitional words and phrases that make the sequence of events clear.