

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. **ardor** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. **conviction** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

3. **diffident** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

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

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

5. **enthusiast** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

6. **expectation** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

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

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

8. **lurid** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

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

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

10. **prolonged** Part of Speech: *adj.* 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. ardor	_____	_____
2. enthusiast	_____	_____
3. prolonged	_____	_____
4. ecstasy	_____	_____
5. conviction	_____	_____
6. diffident	_____	_____
7. expectation	_____	_____
8. prime	_____	_____
9. extravagant	_____	_____
10. lurid	_____	_____

Word List	
anticipation	extended
avoid	fan
bliss	lavish
bold	prepare
boredom	principle
colorless	shocking
critic	shortened
depression	skimp
doubt	surprise
eagerness	timid

• • • 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.

- The ...?... wedding dress had the longest train I've ever seen. _____
- My own experience has led to my ...?... that hard work is rewarding. _____
- My friend, a health-food ...?..., eats only foods that are naturally grown. _____
- To ...?... himself for the debate, Raphael pored over his notes. _____
- She is a quiet, ...?... woman, uncomfortable around strangers. _____
- The ice-cream lover was in ...?... over the dozens of flavors available. _____
- My visit was one of ...?... agony, for the dentist took more time than usual. _____
- It was (a, an) ...?... tale, full of shocking details and violence. _____
- I brought an umbrella because of my ...?... that it will rain today. _____
- Despite your passion, cool your ...?... and speak more calmly. _____

Exercise 5: Classical Allusions

Allusion is a reference within a work to something outside it, such as a famous person, event, or another work of literature. In the passage from *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane makes a classical allusion when he speaks of "a Greeklike struggle."

To understand what an allusion means, first check a dictionary or search the Internet for reliable sites that list the possible meanings. Then use the context in which the allusion appears to further clarify its meaning. Determine the meaning of each allusion in bold print in the sentences below. An example has been done for you.

Example: He had long despaired of witnessing a **Greeklike struggle**.

Meaning: a glorious battle

Origin: battles described in ancient Greek literature, especially Homer's *Iliad*

... tales of great movements shook the land. They might not be distinctly **Homeric**, but there seemed to be much glory in them.

Meaning: _____

Origin: _____

... Still, she had disappointed him by saying nothing whatever about **returning with his shield or on it**.

Meaning: _____

Origin: _____

Exercise 6: Dialect

Dialect is a version of a language spoken in a particular region or by a particular group. Writers often use dialect in dialogue to make it more realistic. To understand a term in dialect, look at the context and decide what the word might mean.

Use the context and, when appropriate, the sound or appearance to figure out the meanings of the words in bold type from the last paragraph of the passage from *The Red Badge of Courage*. Write the meaning in the blank provided. An example is done for you.

Example: "You watch out, Henry, **an'** take good care . . ."

and _____

Don't go **a-thinkin'** you can . . ."

" . . . you can **lick** . . ."

" . . . the **hull** rebel army at the start . . ."

" . . . at the start, because **yeh** can't."

"Yer **jest** one little feller amongst a hull lot of others . . ."

Write About It: Dialogue with Dialect

Write a scene from a story about a person making an important decision in his or her life. Use important details, including dialogue, to make the situation clear, and have at least one character speak in dialect. Use at least three Master Words.