

LESSON 13

Read the following selection to get the general meaning. Read it a second time, paying special attention to the words in dark type. Notice how they are used

in sentences. These are Master Words. These are the words you will be working with in this lesson.

From “**The Adventure of the Speckled Band**” by Arthur Conan Doyle

How shall I ever forget that dreadful **vigil**? I could not hear a sound, not even the drawing of a breath, and yet I knew that my companion sat open-eyed, within a few feet of me, in the same state of nervous **tension** in which I was myself. The shutters cut off the least ray of light, and we waited in absolute darkness. From outside came the occasional cry of a night-bird, and once at our very window a long drawn catlike whine, which told us that the cheetah was indeed at liberty. Far away we could hear the deep tones of the parish clock, which boomed out every quarter of an hour. How long they seemed, those quarters! Twelve struck, and one and two and three, and still we sat waiting silently for whatever might befall.

Suddenly there was the **momentary** gleam of a light up in the direction of the ventilator, which vanished immediately, but was **succeeded** by a strong smell of burning oil and

heated metal. Someone in the next room had lit a dark-lantern. I heard a gentle sound of movement, and then all was silent once more, though the smell grew stronger. For half an hour I sat with straining ears. Then suddenly another sound became **audible**—a very gentle, soothing sound, like that of a small **jet** of steam escaping **continually** from a kettle. The instant that we heard it, Holmes sprang from the bed, struck a match, and lashed furiously with his cane at the bell-pull.

“You see it, Watson?” he yelled. “You see it?”

But I saw nothing. At the moment when Holmes struck the light I heard a low, clear whistle, but the sudden **glare** flashing into my weary eyes made it impossible for me to tell what it was at which my friend lashed so **savagely**. I could, however, see that his face was deadly pale, and filled with horror and **loathing**.

EXERCISE 3

Use the following list of synonyms and antonyms to fill in the blanks. Some words have no antonyms. In

such cases, the antonym blanks have been marked with an X.

adoration
beam
brief
brutal

constant
drip
follow
gentle

gloom
hatred
heard

interrupted
precede
prolonged

relaxation
silent
sleep

strain
stream
watch

Synonyms

Antonyms

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. vigil | _____ | _____ |
| 2. tension | _____ | _____ |
| 3. momentary | _____ | _____ |
| 4. succeed | _____ | _____ |
| 5. audible | _____ | _____ |
| 6. jet | _____ | _____ |
| 7. continual | _____ | _____ |
| 8. glare | _____ | _____ |
| 9. savage | _____ | _____ |
| 10. loathing | _____ | _____ |

EXERCISE 4

Decide whether the first pair in the items below are synonyms or antonyms. Then choose the Master Word

that shows a similar relation to the word(s) preceding the blank.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. anxiety | :contentment | ::kind | : _____ |
| 2. monstrous | :small | ::calmness | : _____ |
| 3. talon | :claw | ::hearable | : _____ |
| 4. somewhat | :slightly | ::lookout | : _____ |
| 5. distress | :relief | ::lead | : _____ |
| 6. pursuit | :chase | ::brightness | : _____ |
| 7. alarming | :soothing | ::loving | : _____ |
| 8. exclusive | :apart from | ::nonstop | : _____ |
| 9. symptom | :sign | ::spray | : _____ |
| 10. furious | :peaceful | ::lengthy | : _____ |

EXERCISE 5

The Master Words in this lesson are repeated below. From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word

for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the numbered space provided at the right.

audible
continual

glare
jet

loathing
momentary

savage
succeed

tension
vigil

1. Thank goodness the banging noises from the radiator are not ...?... but only occur when I turn up the heat. 1. _____
2. Although he had (a, an) ...?... for lettuce, Ted ate most of his salad so as not to offend his host. 2. _____
3. A powerful ...?... of water washed the mud from the chrome wheels. 3. _____
4. Should the President die or leave office, the Vice President will ...?... to the position of top executive. 4. _____
5. George angrily stated that boxing was not a "gentleman's" sport but (a, an) ...?... display of brute force. 5. _____
6. Tanya was unable to see the road in front of her due to the ...?... of the oncoming headlights. 6. _____
7. With the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, fresh watchmen begin their ...?... . 7. _____
8. Questions from the back row of the classroom were scarcely ...?... to the teacher. 8. _____
9. As the hours ticked by and the rescue team reported no luck in reaching the trapped miners, ...?... increased. 9. _____
10. A passing shower caused (a, an) ...?... delay in the baseball game. 10. _____