

**VOCABULARY LESSON 1**

**Directions:** Complete the following exercises on your own. Use context clues from the following sentences to match the **bold** words with the proper definition. Write neatly, spell words correctly, and complete each section.

- We asked her to **accentuate** the important terms while we reviewed for our test.
- Mr. Jones asked some **provocative** questions that made each of us want to write our local Congressman.
- Melissa wrote an **introspective** essay about her feelings concerning the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
- My mother’s instructions were **ambiguous**; I wasn’t sure if I was supposed to make dinner or order take out.
- The itinerary for our cruise to Bermuda was **comprehensive**; we could read what we would be doing for almost every minute of the trip.
- The President’s speech was quite **felicitous** for the first day of school as his topic was making the most of your education.
- We tried to invade the girls’ tree house, but it was **impregnable**; there really were no boys allowed.
- From the **inception** of school year, Mr. Robertson did not allow any chewing gum in his class.
- The **intricacy** of the logic puzzle was ridiculous; there was no way we could sort that many details.
- We did not understand his Midwest **vernacular**, so we weren’t sure what to serve him when he asked for a “pop.”

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
	noun	the native language or dialect of a country or region; everyday or informal language; (adj) using everyday language
	noun	a beginning; a start of something
	adjective	stimulating; pushing or tending toward action, thought, or strong feeling
	verb	to emphasize; to heighten the effect of; to pronounce or mark with an accent; to highlight
	noun	condition or state of being complex, involved or detailed; elaborateness
	adjective	given to the examination of one’s own thoughts and feelings; contemplative
	adjective	well chosen for the occasion; appropriate; apt; having an agreeable or delightful manner of writing or speaking
	adjective	not capable of being conquered, overcome, or captured; unshakeable (as in a belief)
	adjective	of wide scope; inclusive; thorough
	adjective	having more than one possible meaning; uncertain; vague or unclear

Use each of the vocabulary words to complete the sentences below.

1. A commanding speaker, Douglass used his powerful voice to \_\_\_\_\_ important points and to get his listeners' attention.
2. King had a degree in theology and a brilliant command of the English language, yet he often used plain, \_\_\_\_\_ language to get his points across.
3. Both King and Douglass were \_\_\_\_\_ people who thoughtfully examined their own beliefs.
4. Neither King nor Douglass was \_\_\_\_\_ in his demands; each man made it perfectly clear that nothing less than equal rights for African Americans was acceptable.
5. In a time when many Americans took slavery for granted, Douglass's speeches were extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
6. King might have given up the fight if he had believed that prejudice and ignorance were \_\_\_\_\_ barriers to civil rights.
7. Douglass's \_\_\_\_\_ manner of speaking made his ideas seem agreeable as well. He persuaded many people to support the cause of the abolitionists.
8. King knew that segregation was not a simple issue. Yet his clear sense of justice helped him cut through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem.
9. King demanded a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, nationwide commitment to civil rights for African Americans.
10. From its \_\_\_\_\_, however, the civil rights movement steadily gained sympathy and support.
11. It's 1841, and you're attending an antislavery convention in Massachusetts. You have just been impressed by Frederick Douglass's \_\_\_\_\_ and timely speech on the subject of slavery.
12. Douglass's clear, powerful language served to \_\_\_\_\_ his descriptions of the horrors of slavery.
13. Douglass's \_\_\_\_\_ speech roused the crowd to anger against slaveholders.
14. While listening, you wondered how such a sensitive, \_\_\_\_\_ person could speak out so strongly and effectively.
15. Douglass convinced his listeners that, since its \_\_\_\_\_, that is, since its beginning, the institution of slavery has violated human rights.
16. Everyone in the room was moved by Douglass's \_\_\_\_\_ belief in the dignity of human beings. His unshakeable commitment to freedom for all peoples persuades many of the audience members to change their own views.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his argument is even more impressive when you consider that Douglass had no formal education.
18. You believe that Douglass should give many more speeches. Why not launch a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ lecture campaign to reach audiences throughout the North?
19. Douglass has \_\_\_\_\_ feelings about the idea, but he is clearly willing to give the plan a try.
20. Douglass's formal, dignified language, which seems more eloquent than the common \_\_\_\_\_, makes him an especially effective speaker.