

Vocabulary Definitions and Sentences

So you found the words and now you're ready to define them and write sentences for each word. Let me help you so we can make sure it's done right every time.

**First and foremost - Follow these directions.
If you don't...you won't get credit. Period. End of story.**

Remember, it must be turned in ON time, EVERY time or you WON'T get credit.

To help, we are going to use the same example that you will find when you find the actual word list.

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Week 3 | | |
| 2 | 9/10/14 | | |
| 3 | Incandescent | LT | 4 |
| | Adagio | MT | |
| | Ensembles | MT | |
| | Opera | MT | |
| | Chief Electrician | TJ | |
| | Adept | SAT | |
| | Eulogy | SAT | |
| | Jocular | SAT | |
| | Pacifist | SAT | |
| | Sporadic | SAT | |

1. The first thing we need is the VOCABULARY FORM that is found on the website under YOUR class.
 - a. You will need to TYPE the sentences and definitions on this form. Handwritten is NOT accepted.
2. Our first word is *Incandescent* so you need to look that word up.
 - a. First - find the LT definition page. Again, located on the website under YOUR class.
 - b. Second - open that file
 - c. Third – find the word *Incandescent* and type the definition from that file on to the Vocab form.
 - d. Fourth - now write a sentence for that word.

Vocabulary Definitions and Sentences

Sample 1 & 2

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------|--|
| 1 | Definition | Word | Incandescent | Light source consisting of a metal filament (Tungsten) which glows white hot when current is passed through. |
| | Sentence | Incandescent light bulbs were replaced by the more eco-friendly halogen lights all around the United States. | | |
| 2 | Definition | Word | Incandescent | Light Bulb |
| | Sentence | I turned the incandescent light on. | | |

3. Sample 1

- a. The word is written inside the box.
- b. Notice that the FULL definition is typed out.
- c. Also notice that the sentence is COMPLETE.
 - i. It shows a complete understanding of the word AND is consistent with the ability and intellect of a high school student.

4. Sample 2

- a. The word is written inside the box
 - b. The definition is NOT complete and only gives a partial idea of what the word is or means.
 - c. Is the sentence complete? Yes. Is the word used in the sentence? Yes. Is it consistent with the intellect of a high school student? Absolutely not. That is a sentence I might expect from an elementary student.
5. Simply writing a sentence DOES NOT get you credit.
 6. If you copy and paste your friend's sentence you will BOTH get ZERO credit for the work. Even if the sentences are great, you still plagiarized the work so NEITHER of you will get credit.
 7. This is a very easy assignment. All you have to do is DO IT and do it correctly. That's it.

Beginning Tech Terms

ACT

- 1) Subdivision between sections of a play. A short play is a 'One-Act-er', a play with one interval has two Acts etc. Acts are subdivided further into Scenes.
- 2) The thing Actors can do which makes them different from Techies (!!).

ACTING AREA

That area within the performance space where the actor may move in full view of the audience. Also known as the **playing area**

AISLE

A passage through seating.

APRON

Section of the stage floor, which projects towards or into the auditorium. In proscenium theatres, the part of the stage in front of the house tabs, or in front of the proscenium arch.

ARENA

Form of stage where the audience are seated on at least two (normally three, or all four) sides of the whole acting area.

See END ON, THRUST, IN THE ROUND.

ASM

Assistant Stage Manager.

AUDITION

Process where the director or casting director of a production asks actors / actresses / performers to show him/her what they can do. Sometimes very nerve-wracking, but auditions can be a fairly painless process if handled properly. Performers are often asked to memorize a monologue from a play they like to perform for the director. Books full of suggested monologues are available. You may be asked to do a 'Cold Reading' which tests your own response to a piece of text you've not prepared.

AUDITORIUM

The part of the theatre accommodating the audience during the performance. Sometimes known as the "house". From the Latin *Audio* - "I hear".

BACKSTAGE

The part of the stage and theatre which is out of the sight of the audience. The service areas of the theatre, behind, beside or underneath the stage.

BEGINNERS

A call given by Stage Management to bring those actors who appear in the first part of a play to the stage. e.g. "Act One Beginners to the stage, please". The actors/actresses are then called by name. A similar call is given after the interval (e.g. "Act Two Beginners to the stage please").

BLACK BOX

A kind of flexible studio theatre where the audience and actors are in the same room, surrounded by black tabs (curtains). Doesn't necessarily describe the audience layout, which can be easily reconfigured.

BLACKOUT

- 1) Complete absence of stage lighting. Blue working lights backstage should remain on and are not usually under the control of the board, except during a Dead Blackout (DBO), when there is no onstage light. Exit signs and other emergency lighting must remain on at all times.
- 2) The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting (e.g. "This is where we go to blackout")

BLACKS

- 1) Black clothing worn by stage management during productions.
- 2) Any black drapes or tabs, permanently or temporarily rigged. Used for masking technical areas.

BLOCKING

The process of arranging moves to be made by the actors during the play, recorded by stage management in the prompt script. Positions at the start of scenes are noted, as are all movements around the stage (using terms such as 'Gardener X DSL' meaning the Gardener crosses to downstage left.) Stages which are not end-on must often use alternative notation, sometimes based on the clock face or the points of a compass.

BOOK FLAT

Two-fold piece of scenery. Book flats are free-standing when angled open, allowing quick setting and compact storage. Booking describes the action of opening or closing a book flat.

BORDER

A narrow horizontal masking piece (flattage or cloth), normally of neutral color (black) to mask the lighting rig and flown scenery from the audience, and to provide an upper limit to the scene. Often used in conjunction with LEGS.

BOX OFFICE

Part of the theatre front of house area where audience members can buy tickets. Most Box Offices are now computerized, and offer phone reservations. Some offer online (internet) bookings also.

BOX SET

Naturalistic setting of a complete room built from flats with only the side nearest the audience (the fourth wall) missing.

BREAK A LEG

A superstitious and widely accepted alternative to 'Good Luck' (which is considered bad luck). More available at the link below.

CALL

- 1) A notification of a working session (eg a Rehearsal Call, Band Call, Photo Call)
- 2) The period of time to which the above call refers. (eg "Your call for tomorrow nights show is 6.55pm")
- 3) A request for an actor to come to the stage because an entrance is imminent (these are courtesy calls and should not be relied on by actors - eg "This is your call for the finale Mr Smith and Miss Jones")
- 4) An acknowledgement of applause (eg Curtain Call)
- 5) The DSM on the book is said to be "calling the cues".
- 6) The Colour Call is a list of lighting gel required for the lighting rig.

CALLBACKS

Following an audition, the director may ask to see a shortlist of actors again - they are called back for an additional audition to enable the director to make her/his decision.

CAST

The members of the acting company.

CASTING

The process of the director choosing actors to perform the characters in the play.

CENTER STAGE

the position in the center of the stage space. Downstage Center (DSC) is the position at the front of the stage, Upstage Center (USC), and Center Stage (CS)

CENTER LINE

Imaginary line running down the stage through the exact center of the proscenium opening. Marked as CL on stage plans. Normally marked on the stage floor and used as a reference when marking out or assembling a set. Known in the US as CENTER LINE.

CLEARANCE

Message passed to Stage Management from the Front of House Manager that the house is ready for the performance to begin. (ie everyone is in their correct seat and there are no coach parties coming through the doors). Announced as 'We have Front of House Clearance'.

COMPANY

The cast, crew and other staff associated with a show.

COSTUMES

Clothes worn by the actors onstage. The responsibility of the WARDROBE DEPARTMENT.

CUE

- 1) The command given to technical departments to carry out a particular operation. E.g. Fly Cue or Sound Cue. Normally given by stage management, but may be taken directly from the action (i.e. a Visual Cue).
- 2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow (i.e. the actors' cue to enter is when the Maid says "I hear someone coming! Quick - Hide!")

CUE TO CUE

(also known as 'Topping and Tailing')

Cutting out action and dialogue between cues during a technical rehearsal, to save time. (e.g. "OK, can I stop you there - we'll now jump to the end of this scene. We'll pick it up from Simon's line "And from then on it was all downhill" in a moment. OK - we're all set - when you're ready please.")

CURTAIN CALL

At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by actors - the bows.

CYCLORAMA

Usually shortened to just **cyc** (pronounced sike). The Cyclorama is a curved plain cloth or plastered wall filling the rear of the stage or TV studio. Often used as a sky backing to a traditional set, or as the main backing for a dance piece etc. The term is often loosely applied to a blue sky cloth, or any flattage at the rear of the stage. Although strictly a cyc should be curved, most cycs are flat with curved wraparound ends. A more effective backing can be obtained by hanging a shark stooth gauze just in front of the plain white cyc which gives a hazy effect of distance. From Greek *Cyclos* (circle) and *Horama* (view or vision).

See also BOUNCE, ISORA. The German equivalent term is *operafolie*.

DARK

A venue that has been closed to the public. Some theatres go dark temporarily during production periods, when the next show is in preparation on stage. To keep the audience (and their money) coming in, some venues show films or have other activities not involving the stage.

DIALOGUE

The spoken text of a play - conversations between characters is dialogue. See MONOLOGUE and DUOLOGUE.

DIRECTOR

There are many types of director.

Broadly, the role involves being responsible for the overall artistic vision of a production.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Normally in charge of the programming of a venue. May also direct shows.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Manager in charge of the administration of a venue.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - In charge of the technical requirements of a production.

(The term LIGHTING DIRECTOR is used in the UK for a TV Lighting Designer).

DOWNSTAGE

1) The part of the stage nearest to the audience (the lowest part of a raked stage). [See Diagram]

2) A movement towards the audience (in a proscenium theatre).

DRESS REHEARSAL

A full rehearsal, with all technical elements brought together. The performance as it will be 'on the night'.

DRESSING ROOMS

Rooms containing clothes rails and mirrors (often surrounded with lights) in which actors change into their costumes and apply make-up. Dressing Room doors have a list of the actors contained within. See also GREEN ROOM.

FLAT

A lightweight timber frame covered with scenic canvas, or plywood. Flats are used to provide a lightweight and easy to move and re-configure backdrop to a stage set. Flats sometimes have windows or doors built into them to provide extra flexibility, for use in realistic settings. Masking flats are used to hide areas the designer does not want the audience to see, or to provide actors with an exit, or somewhere to store props.

(UK) A flat is supported by a stage brace and brace weight, connected to the flat using a screw eye.

Hardboard is sometimes used, but is unnecessarily heavy and will lose its shape in time. Most theatres have a range of stock flattage made to a standard size, and re-used many times.

A **Rail** is a horizontal batten within a flat.

A **Stile** is a side or vertical piece within a flat.

A **Sill** is the bottom rail of a flat.

See also BOOK FLAT, HOLLYWOOD.

FRONT OF HOUSE (FOH)

1) Every part of the theatre in front of the proscenium arch. Includes foyer areas open to the general public.

2) All lanterns which are on the audience side of the proscenium and are focused towards the stage.

The backstage areas of the theatre are known as **Rear of House** (ROH).

GET-IN

The process of moving set, props and other hardware into a theatre prior to the fit-up. (aka LOAD IN (US) and BUMP IN (Aus.) and PACK IN (NZ.))

GET-OUT

Moving an entire production out of the venue, and into either a large waste-disposal skip, or into transport. Usually preceded by the strike. (aka Load out (USA) or Bump out (AUS.) or Pack Out (NZ.))

GREEN ROOM

Room close to the stage (i.e. the green) for the actors to meet and relax before or after going on stage. See the link below for some possible derivations of the term.

HALF

Call given to the actors half an hour before they will be called to the stage for the beginning of a performance.

Given 35 minutes before the advertised time of commencement. Subsequent calls given are the 'quarter' at 20 minutes, 'the five' at 10 minutes and 'beginners to the stage' at 5 minutes before curtain up. See also FRONT OF HOUSE CALLS, QUARTER.

HOUSE

1) The audience (eg 'How big is the house tonight?')

2) The auditorium (eg 'The house is now open, please do not cross the stage')

INTERVAL

Break between sections of a performance. During a play, the interval is normally half way through a standard length performance (approx 1 hour each half) and is usually 15 or 20 minutes in duration. Known in the US as an INTERMISSION.

MARKING OUT

Sticking tapes to the floor of the rehearsal space to indicate the ground plan of the scenery. Also for marking position of furniture etc. within a set. Always be aware that some tapes may damage or mark some wooden floor surfaces!

MATINEE

Afternoon performance of a show. (From the Latin for 'of the morning', but who does theatre in the morning?)

OFFSTAGE

- 1) A movement towards the nearest side of the stage from the center. (e.g. 'Focus that spot offstage a bit please')
- 2) The area out of sight of the audience (e.g. 'Get that donkey offstage !')

OPEN

The start of the run of a show in a venue. (e.g. 'When does the new musical open at the Variety Theatre?' or 'The show opened a few weeks ago - it's had some great reviews'.)

PARODOS

Parodos (also parode and parodus, plural parodoi, Ancient Greek) is a term used in the theater of ancient Greece, referring either to a side-entrance, or to the first song sung by the chorus after its entrance from the side wings.

PRESET

- 1) Anything in position before the beginning of a scene or act (eg Props placed on stage before the performance, lighting state on stage as the audience are entering.)
- 2) An independently controllable section of a manual lighting board which allows the setting up of a lighting state before it is needed. Each preset has a master fader which selects the maximum level of dimmers controlled by that preset.

PROFESSIONAL*

Normally used for someone who's regularly paid for a particular job (as opposed to an amateur, who does it for fun). A professional attitude is essential when working in the theatre - this means you have to behave as if you were being paid. The theatre world is a very small community - if you behave badly or upset someone, it's highly likely you'll meet them again, and they will remember you!

PROMPT CORNER

Area, traditionally on the stage left side of the stage, from which the stage manager (or DSM) controls ('prompts') the performance, from the prompt desk.

PROPS

(Properties) Furnishings, set dressings, and all items large and small which cannot be classified as scenery, electrics or wardrobe. Props handled by actors are known as hand props, props which are kept in an actors costume are known as **personal props**.

PROSCENIUM ARCH

The opening in the wall which stands between stage and auditorium in some theatres; the picture frame through which the audience sees the play. The "fourth wall". Often shortened to Proscenium or Pros Arch.

In some older theatres, the Proscenium Arch is ornate and painted to contrast with the surrounding walls, to really make it stand out. Nothing outside the Proscenium Arch was part of the show.

However, as there are many different audience layouts now, many theatres (particularly multi-purpose studio theatres) have no Proscenium Arch at all, or it may not be decorated as such.

See END ON.

RAKED STAGE

A sloping stage which is raised at the back (upstage) end. All theatres used to be built with raked stages as a matter of course. Today, the stage is often left flat and the auditorium is raked to improve the view of the stage from all seats. A rake is expressed as a ratio (eg a 1:25 rake rises by 1cm vertically over 25cm horizontally). See also Anti-Rake.

REAR OF HOUSE (ROH)

The backstage and storage areas of the theatre. See also FOH (Front of House). Also sometimes known as Back of House.

RUN

1) A sequence of performances of the same production. (e.g. 'How long is the run of this show?' or 'This show runs for two weeks')

2) A rehearsal of the whole show or a section of it (e.g. 'This afternoon's rehearsal will be a run of Act II followed by notes'). Run-throughs early in the rehearsal schedule are sometimes known as STAGGERS as actors are unsure of their lines.

SET

1) To prepare the stage for action. (verb) - e.g. 'Have you set the chairs for Act 1?'

2) The complete stage setting for a scene or act. (noun) - e.g. 'What's the set for the finale?' French: d?cors.

STAGE LEFT / RIGHT

Left/ Right as seen from the Actor's point of view on stage. (ie Stage Left is the right side of the stage when looking from the auditorium.)

Stage Right = OP (Opposite Prompt) French: Cote Jardin, Netherlands: Toneel Links (translates to Stage Left!)

Stage Left = PS (Prompt Side) French: Cote Cour, Netherlands: Toneel Rechts (translates to Stage Right!).

NB: The Netherlands, Portugal and Germany use the opposite to the rest of Europe; i.e. Stage Left UK = Stage Right. The directions are seen from the director's and audience's perspective, NOT the actors. In

Portugal *Isquerda* (left) is the equivalent of UK Stage Right and *Direita* (right) is the equivalent of UK Stage Left.

STAND-BY

1) A warning given to technical staff by stage management that a cue is imminent. The member of the stage management team calling the cues will say "Standby Sound Cue 12". Technicians acknowledge by saying "Sound Standing By".

In the US, the word "Warning" replaces "Stand-by".

2) A member of the cast of a musical or play who understudies one (sometimes more) of the principal roles but is NOT also in the chorus. A standby often will not even be required to be at the venue at each performance unless he/she is called in to perform in the role for which he/she is an understudy.

See also ALTERNATE, SWING, UNDERSTUDY.

Additional information submitted by Pierce Peter Brandt

TABS

Originally "tableaux curtains" which drew outwards and upwards, but now generally applied to any stage curtains including a vertically flying front curtain (house tabs) and especially a pair of horizontally moving curtains which overlap at the center and move outwards from that center.

[French = *Rideau* / Italian = *Sipario*].

TECH

- 1) Short for Technical Rehearsal. (e.g. 'The Tech took 14 hours')
- 2) A member of (amateur) crew ('I'm the lighting tech for this show')

TECHNICAL REHEARSAL

(also known as the TECH RUN, or just TECH). Usually the first time the show is rehearsed in the venue, with lighting, scenery and sound. Costumes are sometimes used where they may cause technical problems (eg Quick changes). Often a very lengthy process. Often abbreviated to the Tech.

A **DRY TECH** is without actors to rehearse the integration of lighting, scenic changes etc. It follows that a **WET TECH** is a full technical rehearsal with actors and all technical elements, although this term isn't used as often as DRY TECH.

A **PAPER TECH** is a session without the set or actors when the technical and design team talk through the show ensuring everything's going to work as planned. Stage Managers can use this session to ensure all is written correctly in the Prompt Book.

UPSTAGE

- 1) The part of the stage furthest from the audience.
- 2) When an actor moves upstage of another and causes the victim to turn away from the audience he is 'upstaging'. Also, an actor drawing attention to himself away from the main action (by moving around, or over-reacting to onstage events) is upstaging.

VISUAL CUE

A cue taken by a technician from the action on stage rather than being cued by the stage manager. Often abbreviated to "Vis".

WINGS

- 1) The out of view areas to the sides of the acting area (known as FLÜGEL in German)
- 2) Scenery standing where the acting area joins these technical areas.