

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

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

4. Sample 2

- The word is written inside the box
 - The definition is NOT complete and only gives a partial idea of what the word is or means.
 - 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.
- Simply writing a sentence DOES NOT get you credit.
 - 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.
 - This is a very easy assignment. All you have to do is DO IT and do it correctly. That's it.

Musical Theatre Terms

a cappella - singing without instrumental accompaniment. *Not* the same thing as **monophony**, since, among a group of singers, some performers could be singing accompanimental lines while others carry the melody (i.e., **homophony**) or the singers could be performing some sort of **polyphony**.

accelerando (pronounced "a-CHELL-er-AWN-doe") - the term used when the **tempo** grows faster in the course of a piece.

adagio - a musical **tempo** that is slow

advance - tickets sold *before* a show's **opening**

allegro - a musical **tempo** that is fast

alternation form - a pattern that alternates between two contrasting sections - **a b a b (etc.)**. The **form** should have at least two appearances of each section. Sometimes called *verse-chorus* form when the **b** text is the same each time.

alto - low female voice

andante - a musical **tempo** that is walking speed

aria - a **singing style** that is a melodic style of singing; usually it conveys the singer's emotions

arioso - a **singing style** that is half speech-like, half sung (the oldest type)

asymmetrical meter - a **meter** in which there is an unusual grouping of the beats. I.e., 2+2+3

ballad - a type of song, usually **strophic**, which relates a story over the course of several verses

ballad opera - a **genre** which uses *spoken* dialogue (where an opera would use recitative). It has no single composer; instead, new words are written to well-known folk-tunes. Ballad operas written in English (due to a growing 18th-century emphasis on the vernacular).

baritone - a **voice type** midway between **tenor** (a high male voice) and **bass** (a low male voice)

Baroque - the term for the musical era ranging from approximately 1600 to 1750. **Opera** was devised at the start of the Baroque era.

bass - low male voice

beat - a steady background 'pulse' in music

binary form - a structure (**form**) with two halves, **A** and **B** (the first half *can* be repeated before going on to the second half, I.e.: ||:A:| |:B:| = **AABB**). Once **B** begins, **A** is not heard again. Sometimes called "2-part form."

book - the plot and the general spoken dialogue; often devised by someone other than the composer or lyricist

Broadway - the theater district in New York

choreographer - the person who designs the dance movements

chorus - a group of singers - male, female, or mixed - in which several singers sing each of the melodic lines.

chorus line / chorus girls - a group of singers (usually female) who sang simple numbers in musical comedies. The emphasis was traditionally on their appearance rather than their talent.

chromaticism - the use of notes outside of the usual do-re-mi scale tones

Classic - the term for the musical era ranging from approximately 1750 to 1815.

coda - instrumental or vocal music that "wraps up" the tune

company - the full cast of a show (in particular, the performers needed for a production number)

composer - the person who writes the score (the melodies / notes)

concept album - a recording made in the studio, with singers 'performing' their rôles (but by singing them into microphones only). A concept album is an effort to excite the interest (and \$\$) of backers so that the show can be produced (mounted as a stage production)

conjunct - a melody type in which the notes move mainly by step

crescendo (pronounced "cre-SHEN-doe")- the term used when the dynamic level grows louder in the course of a piece.

diminuendo (pronounced "dee-MIN-you-EN-doe") - the term used when the dynamic level grows softer in the course of a piece.

disjunct - a melody type in which the notes move mainly by leap

drama giocoso - a hybrid genre, mixing elements of opera buffa with opera seria. *Don Giovanni* is an example of this relatively rare genre.

dress rehearsal - a rehearsal in full costume

duo/duet - a number featuring two singers

duple meter - the beats are arranged in pairs (1-2-1-2-1-2-1-2, or **strong-weak-strong-weak**)

dynamics/dynamic level - the term for the relative volume level in music. The most common Italian terms are:

- **pianissimo (pp)** - very soft
- **piano (p)** - soft / quiet
- **mezzo-piano (mp)** - somewhat soft
- **mezzo-forte (mf)** - somewhat loud
- **forte (f)** - loud / strong
- **fortissimo (ff)** - very loud

Music can change its dynamic level in the middle of a piece. Growing softer is called **diminuendo** (pronounced "dee-MIN-you-EN-doe"); growing louder is called **crescendo** (pronounced "cre-SHEN-doe").

encore - literally, "again" in French; now used to describe the unplanned repetition of a number because of an audience's enthusiastic response

ensembles - the possible groupings of singers (or instrumentalists)

- **duo/duet** - two singers
- **trio** - three
- **quartet** - four
- **quintet** - five
- **sextet** - six
- **septet** - seven
- **octet** - eight

entr'acte - similar to the **overture**, this is an instrumental number performed by the orchestra at the beginning of a second (or third) act, indicating to the audience that the show is about to resume after an **intermission** or **interval**.

episodes - The contrasting sections (**B, C, etc.**) of a **rondo form**; there have to be at least **2**

flop - a show that sells poorly and closes early (often after being **panned**)

Florentine Camerata - group of writers, artists, musicians, etc. in Florence who devised opera at the beginning of the Baroque era.

foreshadowing - presenting a melody earlier in a show, but without the words for which it is best known

form - the pattern of repetition in a piece of music; its structure or organization. Some common patterns are:

strophic - A A A (etc.)

binary - A B (or AA BB)

ternary - A B A (or A B A')

song form - A A B A'

rondo - A B A C A (etc.)

rounded binary - ||:A:||:BA':|| (= AA BA' BA')

alternation - a b a b a b (etc.)

verse-chorus - a B a B a B (etc.)

forte (f) - a loud / strong dynamic level

fortissimo (ff) - a very loud dynamic level

fugue - a type of imitative polyphony in which several performers each echo the opening melody, but also go on to perform individual material

genre - a "category" of music; i.e., opera, Singspiel, operetta, ballad opera.

hemiola - a rhythmic technique in which the meter seems to shift temporarily from duple to triple or vice versa.

hit - a show that sells very well (often thanks to rave reviews)

homophony - a melody with vocal or instrumental accompaniment (a kind of texture)

imitative polyphony - a kind of texture in which a melody starts in one voice and is then overlapped by a second voice singing the same melody

impresario - a person who is responsible for finding the financial backers, making the programming decisions, assembling the performance forces, etc., for an opera. Analogous to the producer of movies (as well as of contemporary musicals)

instrumental accompaniment - can be featured in the course of a song in various ways, such as:

- **introduction** - played before the singing starts; usually "sets the mood"
- **interlude** - a substantial portion of instrumental music played between sung portions
- **coda** - music that "wraps up" the tune

interlude - a substantial portion of instrumental music played between sung portions

intermission - a period of rest between acts of an opera or show in which the house lights are raised and the audience is free to move about. Known as the **interval** in England.

interval - the English equivalent to an **intermission**.

introduction (instrumental) - played before the singing starts in a particular song; usually "sets the mood." Not the same as an **overture**, which is entirely instrumental (no singers are involved).

key change - a portion of a song written in a different key (**pitch** level) than the opening. Also called **modulation**.

libretto - the words / poetry to an opera

librettist / lyricist - the person who writes the

lieto fine - the Italian term for a "happy ending" to a story

lyrics - the words/poetry to a song (usually rhyming)

major mode/scale - the scale used for "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"; the most commonly used scale in musicals.

Medieval - the term for the musical era ranging from approximately 900 to 1450.

medium - the singers & instruments used in a particular selection.

melismatic - a **text setting** that has several (or sometimes many!) notes per syllable of text; often associated with operatic singing

melody type - the way a tune moves from note to note

- **conjunct** - the notes move mainly by step
- **disjunct** - the notes move mainly by leap

meter - the way beats are organized in music, i.e.:

- **duple** - beats are arranged in pairs (1-2-1-2-1-2-1-2)

- **triple** - beats are arranged in groups of three (1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3)

- **quadruple** - beats are arranged in groups of four

mezzo-forte (mf) - a somewhat loud dynamic level

mezzo-piano (mp) - a somewhat soft dynamic level

mezzo-soprano - a voice type midway between soprano (a high female voice) and alto (a low female voice)

minor mode/scale - the scale used for "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Less common than major mode, the minor mode is sometimes used for sad or serious texts as a type of text expression.

mode - a term used to describe the type of scale (selection of notes) used for a piece of music. The two most common modes are:

- **major** - the scale used for "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

- **minor** - the scale used for "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

moderato - a musical tempo that is moderate

modulation - the technique of shifting to a new key in the course of a tune (also called key change)

monophony - a melody with no accompaniment (a kind of texture)

musical comedy - an American-derived genre which developed in the late 19th century. It tended to have less complex plots and less difficult singing than opera or operetta, and put an emphasis on the chorus line.

non-imitative polyphony - a kind of texture in which two or more *different* melodies performed at the same time

non-plot show - a production which does not have a clear-cut storyline (or book); presents a series of somewhat-related vignettes

octet - a number featuring eight singers

opening / opening night - the first 'official' performance of a show or opera (although previews have usually been performed in front of audiences prior to the opening night)

opera - one of the oldest ancestors of musical theater. Originated in Italy at the beginning of the **Baroque** era, thanks to the **Florentine Camerata**. Although its character has changed over the centuries, a typical opera is in Italian and features **recitatives** and **arias**.

opéra bouffe - French comic opera; a little more slapstick than its ancestor **opéra comique**.

opera buffa - Italian comic opera.

opéra comique - French comic opera; predecessor to **opéra bouffe**.

opera seria - Italian serious opera.

opерetta - a **genre** of enormous popularity in Europe and early 20th-century America. Grew out of French "**opéra bouffe**." Usually more vocally challenging ("operatic") than the scores of musical comedies

ornamentation - methods of 'decorating' a melody to make it more interesting (and to show off!)

overture - a separate instrumental number played at the beginning of an opera or show. In musical theater, it is common for the overture to contain melodies from various songs in the show. The overture is generally a signal to the audience that the show is about to begin.

pan - a highly UNfavorable **review**

patter song - a song in which the text is declaimed very rapidly

pianissimo (pp) - a very soft **dynamic** level

piano (p) - a soft / quiet **dynamic** level

piracy - performing a show for profit without permission (and without paying royalties to the copyright holder)

pitch - the frequency at which a particular note vibrates (its relative "highness" or "lowness")

polyphony - a kind of **texture** in which two or more melodies are heard simultaneously. Two types:

- **imitative** - a melody starts in one voice and is then overlapped by a second voice singing the same melody

- **non-imitative** - two or more *different* melodies performed at the same time

presto - a musical **tempo** that is very fast

preview - a **dress rehearsal** performed in front of an audience (often a paying audience!)

primo uomo (pronounced "PREE-moe WOE-mo") - literally "first man" = the starring male rôle

prima donna (pronounced "PREE-ma DON-na") - literally "first lady" = the starring female rôle

producer - a person who is responsible for finding the financial backers, making the programming decisions, assembling the performance forces, etc., for a musical. Analogous to the **impresario** of opera

production number - a song and/or dance section that features the whole cast (or a large portion of it)

quadruple - the **beats** are arranged in groups of four (often hard to distinguish by ear from **duple meter**)

quartet - a number featuring four singers

quintet - a number featuring five singers

range - the span of notes, from low to high, required in a particular song or which a particular singer is able to sing.

rave - a highly favorable **review**

recitative - a **singing style** that is a rapid, speech-like style of singing; usually conveys the storyline as quickly as possible

refrain (A) - The "A" section (which returns at least twice) of a **rondo form**

rehearsal pianist - a pianist who, during early rehearsals of a show or opera, duplicates the melodies and accompaniments to be played by the orchestra

reprise - the return to a earlier musical number later in a show, often with modified text.

review - a critic's written, published assessment of a show's strengths and weaknesses (usually published around opening night). Highly-favorable reviews are called **raves**, while a poor review is called a **pan**.

rhythm - the general term used to describe how music moves through time. Encompasses terms such as **beat, meter**, and **tempo**.

rhythm section is a small group of accompanying instruments, usually comprised of a piano, bass, drumset, and sometimes guitar

ritardando (pronounced "RE-tar-DAWN-doe") - the term used when the **tempo** grows slower in the course of a piece.

rock opera - a **genre** of the late 20th-century which tends to be sung throughout (like opera), but makes use of rock style in some or all of its **score**.

Romantic - the term for the musical era ranging from approximately 1815 to 1900.

rondo - a form that combines *repetition* and *contrast*. Layout is usually **A - B - A - C - A** (etc.) The repeated section is called the **refrain (A)**, while the contrasting sections are called **episodes (B)**; there have to be at least **2** episodes.

rounded binary form - a variant of **binary** form in which the opening **A** is repeated before moving on the **B** portion, and then a modified version of **A** follows the **B**. The **B** and **A'** sections are then repeated. The form is called *binary* because it consists of two parts: **A** and **BA'** (each of which is repeated; i.e., $||:A:| |:BA':| = AA BA' BA'$); it is *rounded* because the **A** theme "rounds off" the **B** theme.

score - the written melodies / notes of music (created by a **composer**)

season is the time period in which new shows tend to open - fall through spring (like television!)

self-quotation - re-using melodies that one has composed oneself. (Quotation of other people's music is where one runs the risk of *plagiarism*)

septet - a number featuring seven singers

sequence - a melodic phrase which is repeated at higher or lower **pitch** levels

sextet - a number featuring six singers

show-stopper - a number which is received so enthusiastically by the audience that their sustained applause "stops" the production for a period of time.

singing styles - the 'character' of the way words can be set to music

- **arioso** - half speech-like, half sung (the oldest type)

- **aria** - a melodic style of singing which usually conveys the singer's emotions

- **recitative** - a rapid, speech-like style of singing which usually conveys the storyline as quickly as possible

Singspiel (pronounced "Zing-shpeel") - a German-language **genre** which has arias, but uses spoken dialogue (where an Italian **opera** would use recitative)

soliloquy - a number performed by a soloist as if he or she is musing aloud

solo - a number featuring one singer

song form - a form that conforms to the pattern **A A B A'** (sometimes called "32-bar form," "popular song form," or "pop song form")

song plugger - in the early 20th century, a person who advertised new tunes in music stores by performing them for customers or shopkeepers

soprano - high female voice

star turn - a song and/or dance that features one of the leading characters, allowing him or her to show off his or her talents

star vehicle - a show that is designed, from the start, to show off the talents of a particular actor or singer.

strophic form - a form that follows the pattern **A A A** (etc.).

syllabic - a text setting that has one note per syllable of text

syncopation - a rhythmic effect in which notes on weak beats (or between the beats) are emphasized; a common jazz technique.

tempo - the speed of the music. Some common labels are:

- **adagio** - slow

- **andante** - walking speed

- **moderato** - moderate

- **allegro** - fast

- **presto** - very fast

Music can change its tempo in the course of a piece. Growing faster is called **accelerando** (pronounced "a-CHELL-er-AWN-doe"); growing slower is called **ritardando** (pronounced "RE-tar-DAWN-doe").

tenor - high male voice

ternary form - a form that has an opening section, a contrasting section, and then returns to the opening section, i.e. **A B A**. Sometimes called "da capo form" or "3-part form."

text expression - music written so that it underscores the meaning or mood of the words, such as:

- choice of tempo (speed). I.E., fast = exciting; slow = serious

- word-painting - using music to "illustrate" a particular word or phrase. I.E., Singing the word "loud" loudly

text setting - words and music can correspond in various ways. Two types most common in musical theater:

- **syllabic** - one note per syllable of text
- **melismatic** - several (or sometimes many!) notes per syllable of text; often associated with operatic singing
- **texture** - the way that melody is used in a piece
- **monophony** - a melody with no accompaniment
- **homophony** - a melody with accompaniment
- **polyphony** - two or more melodies heard simultaneously
- **imitative** - a melody starts in one voice and is then overlapped by a second voice singing the same melody
- **non-imitative** - two or more *different* melodies performed at the same time

through-composed - no clear repetition in a piece (it has no **form**)

touring company - a group of singers (and often an orchestra) who travel and perform an opera or musical in various cities.

trio - a number featuring three singers

triple meter - the **beats** are arranged in groups of three (1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3, or **strong-weak-weak-strong-weak-weak**)

tryout tour - a production which opens "out-of-town" (not in New York) in an effort to test it before its **Broadwayopening**

Twentieth-Century - the term for the musical era ranging from approximately 1900 to the present.

verse-chorus form - a subset of *alternation form*, with a pattern that alternates between two contrasting sections - **a B a B (etc.)**, with a **B** text that is the same each time. The **form** should have at least two appearances of each section.

virtuoso/virtuosa - a very talented performer

vision song - a selection in which the singer describes something (usually in vivid detail) that is believable—but does not *actually* exist

vocal introduction - an opening section performed by the singer which differs slightly in style from the remainder of the song. Like an instrumental **introduction**, it usually "sets the mood." It may be in a different tempo or not have a steady beat at all (like **recitative**). Occasionally it is in a different mode from the remainder of the song.

voice type - the classification given to a singer's voice, based primarily on its **range**. The most common voice types are:

- **soprano** - a high-pitched woman's voice
- **alto** - a low-pitched woman's voice
- **tenor** - a high-pitched man's voice
- **bass** - a low-pitched man's voice

Two other voice type labels are often used. These are:

- **mezzo-soprano** - a female voice type midway between soprano and alto
- **baritone** - a male voice type midway between tenor and bass

West End - the theatre district in London

word-painting - a type of **text expression**, using music to "illustrate" a particular word or phrase. I.E., singing the word "loud" loudly