

# WORDPLAY



## 550+ Words You Need to Know

Second Edition

**FIVE AUDIO  
COMPACT DISCS**

Total Playing Time:  
Approximately Six Hours  
plus booklet with words  
and definitions

### EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

- Seven comedy dramatizations, each in four acts
- Dialogues highlight words for you to learn
- Words and idioms are defined and reviewed after each act

Based on the popular  
vocabulary-building book

**1100 WORDS**

**YOU NEED TO KNOW**

by Murray Bromberg and

Melvin Gordon

Translations written  
by Paul Allman

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[www.ELTS4U.blogfa.com](http://www.ELTS4U.blogfa.com)

International Standard Book Number 0-7641-2824-8

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# **Contents**

**Preface v**

**The Rambling Panthers 1**

**Slap Monahan, Private Investigator 5**

**The Furious Cook 9**

**High School University 13**

**Big Mike 17**

**The Meter Is Running 21**

**City of Gold 25**

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## Preface

*WordPlay: 550+ Words You Need to Know* is a unique and delightful way to improve your vocabulary. By listening to the amusing and entertaining plays on these CDs, you will not only learn new words and idioms, but you will hear them in context and learn their definitions, thereby increasing your power of communication. The complete package includes seven plays of four acts each.

You will notice that within each play, the vocabulary words become more difficult as the play progresses from the first act to the fourth. If you listen to each play straight through, you'll go from the easiest words to the most challenging. By the time you start Act 1 of the next play, you should find the words refreshingly easy again! If you'd like to start by listening to all the first acts, then all the second acts, etc. just refer to the directory on the next page of this booklet and listen at your own pace.

Each act is followed by a review repeating, in context, the vocabulary words and idioms introduced in that act, and explaining and defining them.

This booklet contains all the new words and idioms, with definitions, that you will hear in the seven plays. On the CDs, the targeted words and idioms are identified by an appropriate sound effect.

The vocabulary words in the booklet are arranged in the order in which you'll hear them in the plays. As you listen, refer to the booklet when you hear a new word, and return to it for review after you have heard all of the plays.

By listening to these plays and review sections, and then taking a further look at the definitions in this booklet, you will be well on your way to a stronger vocabulary and improved communication skills.

## Disk Directory

### CD 1:

1. Introduction/"The Rambling Panthers" Act 1
2. "The Rambling Panthers" Act 2
3. "The Rambling Panthers" Act 3
4. "The Rambling Panthers" Act 4
5. "Slap Monahan, Private Investigator" Act 1
6. "Slap Monahan, Private Investigator" Act 2

### CD 2:

1. "Slap Monahan, Private Investigator" Act 3
2. "Slap Monahan, Private Investigator" Act 4
3. "The Furious Cook" Act 1
4. "The Furious Cook" Act 2
5. "The Furious Cook" Act 3
6. "The Furious Cook" Act 4

### CD 3:

1. "High School University" Act 1
2. "High School University" Act 2
3. "High School University" Act 3
4. "High School University" Act 4
5. "Big Mike" Act 1
6. "Big Mike" Act 2

### CD 4:

1. "Big Mike" Act 3
2. "Big Mike" Act 4
3. "The Meter Is Running" Act 1
4. "The Meter Is Running" Act 2
5. "The Meter Is Running" Act 3
6. "The Meter Is Running" Act 4

### CD 5:

1. "City of Gold" Act 1
2. "City of Gold" Act 2
3. "City of Gold" Act 3
4. "City of Gold" Act 4

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# The Rambling Panthers

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Annals</b>	historical records
<b>Prognosticate</b>	predict or foretell
<b>Tinge</b>	a trace or slight degree
<b>Implore</b>	plead urgently or entreat
<b>Voracious</b>	desiring or consuming great quantities
<b>Automaton</b>	a robot
<b>Badger</b>	pester or nag persistently
<b>Realm</b>	a special field; kingdom or domain
<b>Eminent</b>	outstanding; above others
<b>Steeped</b>	soaked or saturated
<b>Replete</b>	completely filled
<b>Abounds</b>	has something in great numbers
<b>Indiscriminate</b>	chosen at random without careful selection
<b>Perceive</b>	understand
<b>Compound</b>	increase or add to
<b>Technology</b>	a branch of science dealing with engineering or applied science
<b>Drudgery</b>	dull or hard work

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# The Rambling Panthers

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Advocate</b>	recommend publicly or defend
<b>Adverse</b>	unfavorable
<b>Ineffectual</b>	unsuccessful or fruitless
<b>Loath</b>	reluctant or unwilling
<b>Astute</b>	keen or shrewd
<b>Vexatious</b>	annoying or troublesome
<b>Malady</b>	a disease or ailment
<b>Spew</b>	gush out; also to utter abusive or objectionable language
<b>Blatant</b>	noisy or disagreeably loud
<b>Impresario</b>	an organizer of public entertainment
<b>Entourage</b>	a group of followers
<b>Nefarious</b>	wicked or villainous
<b>Scrutinize</b>	examine closely
<b>Asset</b>	something of use or value
Idiom	Definition
<b>Cold feet</b>	hesitation because of fear
<b>Keep a stiff upper lip</b>	be uncomplaining and courageous
<b>Look a gift horse in the mouth</b>	be critical of a present

# The Rambling Panthers

## Act Three

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Exonerate</b>	free from guilt or blame
<b>Rife</b>	widespread
<b>Dismantle</b>	take apart
<b>Parsimonious</b>	miserly or sparing
<b>Coup</b>	a strikingly successful move; a revolution
<b>Blunt</b>	speak plainly
<b>Profligate</b>	wasteful or reckless
<b>Strife</b>	unrest or discord
<b>Restrictive</b>	harsh or confining
<b>Fiat</b>	an official order or command
<b>Legion</b>	a large number
<b>Megalomaniac</b>	one with an abnormal desire for power or with delusions of grandeur
<b>Pecuniary</b>	financial
<b>Sumptuous</b>	lavish or extravagant
<b>Nostalgia</b>	a yearning for the past
Idiom	Definition
<b>Know the ropes</b>	be fully acquainted with procedures
<b>Behind the eight ball</b>	in trouble
<b>Playing possum</b>	fooling someone by pretending to be harmless



# The Rambling Panthers

## Act Four

### Vocabulary

### Definition

---

**Adversary**

a foe or opponent

**Bliss**

pleasure or happiness

**Fracas**

a brawl or a noisy fight

**Platitude**

a trite saying

**Pathetic**

pitiful or sad

**Wane**

decline or decrease

**Atypical**

nonconforming or out of the ordinary

**Adherent**

a supporter

**Exhort**

urge strongly

**Inebriated**

intoxicated

**Apathy**

lack of interest or uncaring

**Gusto**

zest or enthusiasm

**Indolent**

lazy

**Pique**

anger or resentment

**Nondescript**

undistinguished or difficult to describe

### Idiom

### Definition

---

**Spur of the moment**

on impulse or without thinking

**Fly in the ointment**

something that spoils or lessens the enjoyment

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# Slap Monahan, Private Investigator

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Hapless</b>	unlucky
<b>Irate</b>	angry
<b>Throng</b>	a great number of people
<b>Pretext</b>	an excuse
<b>Felon</b>	a criminal
<b>Enhance</b>	make greater or improve
<b>Accost</b>	approach and speak to someone in a bold manner
<b>Adroit</b>	clever or skillful
<b>Cajole</b>	coax or wheedle
<b>Vigilant</b>	alert
<b>Plethora</b>	an overabundance
<b>Rudimentary</b>	elementary
<b>Fabricate</b>	make up a lie
<b>Intrepid</b>	brave
<b>Laconic</b>	concise and indifferent
<b>Avid</b>	enthusiastic
<b>Furtive</b>	sneaky
Idiom	Definition
<b>Sword of Damocles</b>	any threatening danger
<b>Wet blanket</b>	a spoilsport

# Slap Monahan, Private Investigator

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Coerce</b>	force people to something against their will
<b>Domicile</b>	a home or abode
<b>Lax</b>	careless
<b>Comprehensive</b>	thorough
<b>Conjecture</b>	an educated guess
<b>Elapse</b>	slip by; usually, time elapses
<b>Fruitless</b>	useless
<b>Inundate</b>	to flood
<b>Garbled</b>	confused or distorted
<b>Zealous</b>	enthusiastic
<b>Gesticulate</b>	use lively gestures
<b>Phlegmatic</b>	calm or sluggish
<b>Rash</b>	reckless
<b>Meticulous</b>	attentive to details
<b>Poignant</b>	painful to the feelings
<b>Sanguine</b>	optimistic
<b>Obviate</b>	do away with or make unnecessary
Idiom	Definition
<b>Sow wild oats</b>	lead a wild life
<b>Fair-weather friends</b>	people who are with you only in good times

# Slap Monahan, Private Investigator

## Act Three

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Sultry</b>	oppressively hot and humid
<b>Pesky</b>	annoying
<b>Redolent</b>	filled with an odor
<b>Disparate</b>	different or varying
<b>Vicissitudes</b>	difficulties
<b>Unabated</b>	without subsiding
<b>Repose</b>	state of rest
<b>Abstemious</b>	moderate in eating or drinking
<b>Nebulous</b>	vague or unclear
<b>Omnivorous</b>	eating all kinds of foods
<b>Lugubrious</b>	extremely sad
<b>Derogatory</b>	express a low opinion
<b>Reville</b>	scold
<b>Maudlin</b>	overly sentimental
<b>Extant</b>	in existence
<b>Trenchant</b>	sharp or incisive
<b>Indict</b>	accuse
Idiom	Definition
<b>A lick and a promise</b>	do something in a cursory manner
<b>Tongue-in-cheek</b>	mocking or satirical
<b>Take the wind out of someone's sails</b>	remove an advantage

# Slap Monahan, Private Investigator

## Act Four

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Candor</b>	honesty or frankness
<b>Galvanize</b>	arouse someone to do something
<b>Wheedle</b>	persuade or cajole
<b>Charlatan</b>	a fraud or a pretender
<b>Omnipotent</b>	unlimited in power or authority
<b>Condescend</b>	lower oneself; to stoop
<b>Encumbrance</b>	a burden or handicap
<b>Mortified</b>	embarrassed or ashamed
<b>Malign</b>	slander or abuse
<b>Fledgling</b>	someone newly developed
<b>Decorum</b>	correct behavior
<b>Zenith</b>	a high point or summit
<b>Extinct</b>	no longer exist
<b>Rustic</b>	unpolished or countrified
<b>Idyllic</b>	peaceful or simple
<b>Gaudy</b>	flashy or showy
Idiom	Definition
<b>From pillar to post</b>	from one place to another
<b>Achilles' heel</b>	a weakness or a vulnerable spot
<b>In the lap of the gods</b>	out of one's hands

# The Furious Cook

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Aspirant</b>	someone hoping for advancement
<b>Alacrity</b>	quick willingness
<b>Frenzy</b>	a frantic outburst
<b>Belligerent</b>	warlike or hostile
<b>Intimidate</b>	frighten or overwhelm
<b>Pugnacious</b>	combative or quarrelsome
<b>Disdain</b>	scorn or contempt
<b>Castigate</b>	punish or chastise
<b>Scoff</b>	mock or sneer at
<b>Solace</b>	comfort or easing of grief
<b>Scurrilous</b>	using vulgar language
<b>Belittle</b>	make someone seem less important
<b>Brash</b>	insolent or disrespectful
<b>Promulgate</b>	make public or proclaim
<b>Sordid</b>	filthy or lacking dignity
<b>Dregs</b>	the most worthless part
Idiom	Definition
<b>Throw down the gauntlet</b>	offer a challenge
<b>Rule the roost</b>	be the boss
<b>Hobson's choice</b>	no choice at all
<b>Feeling no pain</b>	under the influence of alcohol

# The Furious Cook

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Surmise</b>	guess
<b>Haven</b>	a safe, protected place
<b>Cryptic</b>	puzzling
<b>Viable</b>	workable or practicable
<b>Incontrovertible</b>	undeniable
<b>Inchoate</b>	not yet developed
<b>Curtail</b>	cut short
<b>Incredulous</b>	skeptical
<b>Jeopardize</b>	endanger
<b>Ultimate</b>	final
<b>Permeate</b>	spread throughout
<b>Emit</b>	give off
<b>Eventuate</b>	come out in the end
<b>Subjugate</b>	conquer
<b>Premise</b>	a basis for belief
<b>Subterranean</b>	underground
<b>Surreptitious</b>	stealthy
<b>Repress</b>	restrain or hold back
<b>Importune</b>	urgently ask
Idiom	Definition
<b>The lion's share</b>	the major portion
<b>Take the pull by the horns</b>	face a problem directly
<b>Out of the frying pan, into the fire</b>	go from a difficult situation to a worse one

# The Furious Cook

## Act Three

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Plight</b>	a predicament
<b>Prelude</b>	an introduction
<b>Cope</b>	be able to handle
<b>Recondite</b>	obscure or little known
<b>Demur</b>	object
<b>Indifference</b>	a lack of concern
<b>Acknowledge</b>	admit
<b>Cumulative</b>	accumulated or the result of gradual additions
<b>Escalation</b>	an increase
<b>Fabricate</b>	make up or to lie
<b>Incapacitated</b>	unfit
<b>Appellation</b>	a name
<b>Potentially</b>	possibly
<b>Delude</b>	fool
<b>Juxtapose</b>	place side by side
<b>Chimerical</b>	imaginary or fantastic
<b>Incompatibility</b>	the quality of being mismatched
<b>Palliate</b>	relieve without curing
<b>Connubial</b>	related to marriage
Idiom	Definition
<b>Apple pie order</b>	good condition



# The Furious Cook

## Act Four

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Emulate</b>	rival or strive to equal
<b>Menial</b>	degrading or humble
<b>Ambiguous</b>	undefined or not specific
<b>Succinct</b>	concise or brief
<b>Facetious</b>	dubiously humorous
<b>Alleviate</b>	lighten or make easier
<b>Paltry</b>	of little importance
<b>Trivial</b>	petty or worthless
<b>Venerable</b>	respected because of age
<b>Celerity</b>	speed
<b>Salubrious</b>	wholesome or healthful
<b>Prodigious</b>	extraordinary
<b>Usurp</b>	annex or seize
<b>Bizarre</b>	fantastic or odd
<b>Rabid</b>	furious or fanatical
<b>Profound</b>	intense or deep
<b>Condone</b>	pardon or approve
<b>Expedite</b>	speed up progress
Idiom	Definition
<b>Ivory tower</b>	a protected place that is out of touch with life
<b>Handwriting on the wall</b>	a prediction or warning
<b>Feather one's nest</b>	enrich oneself at every opportunity

# High School University

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Condolences</b>	expressions of sympathy
<b>Jostle</b>	push or shove hard
<b>Inadvertent</b>	due to an oversight
<b>Ominous</b>	menacing
<b>Bristle</b>	stiffen with fear or anger
<b>Loathe</b>	despise
<b>Caustic</b>	sarcastic or biting
<b>Infamous</b>	having a bad reputation
<b>Wrest</b>	seize or take by force
<b>Tremulous</b>	quivering
<b>Repudiate</b>	refuse to accept or reject
<b>Reprimand</b>	a severe scolding
<b>Incipient</b>	beginning to exist
<b>Mundane</b>	down to earth
<b>Euphemism</b>	a less offensive term
<b>Lackluster</b>	lacking brightness
<b>Dupe</b>	to fool somebody; someone who is easily fooled
<b>Incongruous</b>	having inconsistent elements
Idiom	Definition
<b>Crocodile tears</b>	hypocritical sympathy
<b>Go up in smoke</b>	end fruitlessly
<b>Carry the day</b>	win the approval of the majority

# High School University

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Jaunty</b>	sprightly or lively
<b>Ilk</b>	sort
<b>Anathema</b>	a curse or something greatly detested
<b>Expunge</b>	erase
<b>Integral</b>	essential
<b>Ostentatious</b>	showy
<b>Prestigious</b>	well-known or admired
<b>Placard</b>	a poster
<b>Flamboyant</b>	colorful or showy
<b>Inhibition</b>	a restraint
<b>Fortuitous</b>	happily accidental
<b>Utopia</b>	a place of perfection
<b>Schism</b>	a split or division
<b>Fractious</b>	quarrelsome or divisive
<b>Diatribes</b>	bitter criticism
<b>Incoherent</b>	not making sense
<b>Timorous</b>	fearful
Idiom	Definition
<b>Wear your heart on your sleeve</b>	make your feelings obvious
<b>Save face</b>	avoid embarrassment
<b>Wash dirty linen in public</b>	openly discuss private affairs

# High School University

## Act Three

### Vocabulary

### Definition

---

<b>Ponder</b>	consider carefully
<b>Nirvana</b>	a heavenly place
<b>Salvation</b>	deliverance from ruin
<b>Bona fide</b>	genuine
<b>Supplication</b>	earnest prayer
<b>Materialistic</b>	concerned with possessions
<b>Lush</b>	luxurious
<b>Scion</b>	a descendant
<b>Opulence</b>	wealth
<b>Decadence</b>	decay, usually moral decay
<b>Metamorphosis</b>	a change
<b>Indoctrinate</b>	teach certain principles
<b>Ascetic</b>	one who practices self-denial
<b>Disciple</b>	a follower
<b>Destitution</b>	extreme poverty
<b>Obsequious</b>	insincerely humble
<b>Penance</b>	atonement for sin

### Idiom

### Definition

---

<b>On tenterhooks</b>	in a state of suspense
<b>The fat is in the fire</b>	the mischief is done
<b>Like Caesar's wife</b>	above suspicion

# High School University

## Act Four

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Heresy</b>	an unacceptable opinion or belief
<b>Spurious</b>	counterfeit
<b>Anomaly</b>	irregularity
<b>Dissent</b>	protest or disagree
<b>Fervid</b>	enthusiastic or intense
<b>Innocuous</b>	innocent or harmless
<b>Surfeit</b>	an excess
<b>Deleterious</b>	harmful or bad
<b>Prudent</b>	cautious or wise
<b>Strident</b>	harsh or shrill
<b>Attenuate</b>	weaken or decrease
<b>Ostensible</b>	pretended or outward
<b>Propagate</b>	multiply or produce
<b>Ferment</b>	agitation or turmoil
<b>Arbiter</b>	a judge
<b>Efficacy</b>	power to produce an effect
<b>Incumbent</b>	morally required; one holding an office
Idiom	Definition
<b>Give the cold shoulder</b>	snub or ignore someone
<b>Without rhyme or reason</b>	making no sense

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# Big Mike

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Monolithic</b>	having a massive solid structure
<b>Exacerbate</b>	irritate or make worse
<b>Cognizant</b>	aware
<b>Oust</b>	eject or drive out
<b>Arbitrary</b>	based on a whim
<b>Flout</b>	show contempt or scoff at
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	range of authority
<b>Reprehensible</b>	blameworthy
<b>Terminate</b>	to end
<b>Forthwith</b>	immediately
<b>Indigent</b>	poverty stricken
<b>Effigy</b>	a likeness
<b>Paroxysm</b>	a sudden outburst
<b>Skirmish</b>	a small fight
<b>Stymie</b>	hinder or impede
<b>Fray</b>	a conflict or fight
<b>Implacable</b>	relentless or inexorable
<b>Labyrinth</b>	winding passages; a maze
<b>Harass</b>	to trouble or torment
<b>Turbulent</b>	unruly or agitated
<b>Revert</b>	go back
Idiom	Definition
<b>Bitter pill to swallow</b>	a humiliating defeat

## Big Mike

### Act Two

#### Vocabulary

#### Definition

---

**Impeccable**

faultless or spotless

**Consummate**

complete or of the highest degree

**Component**

an element or part

**Deploy**

position forces according to a plan

**Subterfuge**

a trick or a deception

**Attest**

confirm as accurate or vouch for

**Manifold**

many or complex

**Assiduous**

devoted or attentive

**Evaluate**

review or find the value of

**Enigma**

a riddle or a puzzle

**Murky**

dark or obscure

**Fraught**

filled

**Perpetrate**

commit

**Hoax**

a trick or a deception

**Gullible**

easily fooled or cheated

**Fallacious**

misleading or false

**Concoct**

devise

**Exult**

rejoice greatly

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# Big Mike

## Act Three

### Vocabulary

**Pinnacle**

**Bereft**

**Voluminous**

**Humility**

**Obscure**

**Prodigy**

**Ardent**

**Egotist**

**Invective**

**Array**

**Inveerate**

**Constrict**

**Falter**

**Adamant**

**Retrospect**

**Vitriolic**

**Besmirch**

**Culminate**

### Definition

a peak or summit

deprived of

large or bulky

modesty or humbleness

difficult to see or understand

a marvel or a phenomenon

eager or passionate

a conceited or vain person

insulting or abusive speech

system or arrangement

habitual or firmly established

bind or limit

hesitate or stumble

inflexible or unyielding

looking backward

biting or burning

stain or dim one's reputation

reach the highest point or the end

### Idiom

**Loaded for bear**

**Pull your weight**

### Definition

well prepared

do a fair share of the work

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# Big Mike

## Act Four

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Halcyon</b>	calm or peaceful
<b>Felicitous</b>	happy
<b>Vertigo</b>	dizziness
<b>Therapy</b>	a curing or healing process
<b>Confront</b>	come face to face with
<b>Iconoclast</b>	an attacker of beliefs
<b>Austere</b>	unadorned or hard
<b>Tenable</b>	supportable or defensible
<b>Rationalize</b>	justify for the wrong reason
<b>Phobia</b>	a persistent fear
<b>Nascent</b>	beginning to develop
<b>Antipathy</b>	hate or distaste
<b>Motivate</b>	provoke or stimulate
<b>Conducive</b>	helpful or leading to
<b>Servile</b>	submissive or slavish
<b>Superfluous</b>	surplus or excessive
<b>Sojourn</b>	a temporary stay
<b>Erudite</b>	scholarly or learned
Idiom	Definition
<b>Off the beaten track</b>	out of the ordinary
<b>Upset the apple cart</b>	disturb a plan or intention
<b>Square peg in a round hole</b>	someone who doesn't fit the surroundings
<b>Tighten your belt</b>	get set for bad times

# The Meter Is Running

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Reproach</b>	rebuke or reprimand
<b>Wary</b>	watchful or shrewd
<b>Deter</b>	discourage or hinder
<b>Allay</b>	calm or soothe
<b>Occult</b>	supernatural or mysterious
<b>Abjure</b>	renounce
<b>Slovenly</b>	sloppy or careless
<b>Evanescent</b>	momentary or fleeting
<b>Tantamount</b>	identical or equivalent
<b>Glean</b>	gather or collect
<b>Connoisseur</b>	an expert
<b>Propensity</b>	inclination
<b>Debilitate</b>	weaken
<b>Impetuous</b>	impulsive
<b>Foment</b>	instigate or stir up
<b>Somber</b>	gloomy
<b>Penitent</b>	regretting; one who repents
<b>Quarry</b>	something hunted or pursued
Idiom	Definition
<b>On the dot</b>	exactly on time
<b>Take under one's wing</b>	become responsible for
<b>Hit the nail on the head</b>	state something correctly
<b>Out of one's depth</b>	in a situation too difficult to handle

# The Meter Is Running

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Distraught</b>	harassed or confused
<b>Admonish</b>	scold or warn
<b>Paucity</b>	a shortage or scarcity
<b>Inexorable</b>	unyielding or relentless
<b>Construe</b>	interpret or infer
<b>Flagrant</b>	outrageous
<b>Clandestine</b>	hidden or secret
<b>Concur</b>	agree
<b>Pernicious</b>	harmful or damaging
<b>Culprit</b>	a guilty person
<b>Ethics</b>	moral philosophy
<b>Acrimonious</b>	caustic or bitter
<b>Tolerate</b>	put up with
<b>Duplicity</b>	double dealing
<b>Egregious</b>	conspicuously bad
<b>Impunity</b>	freedom from punishment
<b>Rampant</b>	unrestrained
<b>Inane</b>	silly
Idiom	Definition
<b>Stock in trade</b>	tools of a profession
<b>Pass the buck</b>	evade responsibility
<b>Lionize a person</b>	make a big fuss over someone
<b>Take down a peg</b>	humiliate

# The Meter Is Running

## Act Three

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Lethal</b>	deadly
<b>Inveigh</b>	attack verbally
<b>Mammoth</b>	huge or enormous
<b>Havoc</b>	wide destruction and devastation
<b>Sinecure</b>	a soft and secure job
<b>Overt</b>	evident
<b>Relegate</b>	assign to an inferior position
<b>Repulse</b>	drive back
<b>Bias</b>	prejudice
<b>Incisive</b>	keen
<b>Precipitate</b>	make something happen suddenly
<b>Nettle</b>	irritate
<b>Valor</b>	courage
<b>Stereotype</b>	an accepted pattern
<b>Singular</b>	extraordinary or unique
<b>Raze</b>	destroy or level
Idiom	Definition
<b>Gild the lily</b>	elaborate unnecessarily
<b>Steal someone's thunder</b>	take attention from

## The Meter Is Running

### Act Four

Vocabulary

Definition

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**Neutralize**

make inactive

**Analogous**

comparable or similar

**Neurotic**

having an emotional disorder

**Decade**

ten years

**Irascible**

irritable

**Susceptible**

vulnerable to

**Mandate**

an authoritative command

**Maladjusted**

mentally or emotionally disturbed

**Catastrophic**

disastrous

**Pedagogue**

a teacher

**Heterogeneous**

dissimilar or diverse

**Introspective**

looking into one's own feelings

**Perpetuate**

cause to continue

**Enunciate**

speak clearly

**Phenomenon**

an unusual occurrence

**Perspicacious**

acutely perceptive

**Gamut**

the complete range

**Inordinate**

excessive

Idiom

Definition

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**Get your back up**

become angry

**On the qui vive**

on the alert

# City of Gold

## Act One

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Inclement</b>	stormy or harsh
<b>Mastiff</b>	a large dog
<b>Recoil</b>	draw back
<b>Desist</b>	cease
<b>Doleful</b>	sad
<b>Premonition</b>	forewarning
<b>Imminent</b>	about to happen
<b>Inert</b>	powerless to move
<b>Symptomatic</b>	indicative
<b>Peruse</b>	read carefully
<b>Persevere</b>	persist
<b>Engrossed</b>	absorbed
<b>Evasive</b>	hard to grasp
<b>Obsess</b>	preoccupy
<b>Frustrate</b>	foil or deny
<b>Salient</b>	most prominent
<b>Pertinent</b>	appropriate
<b>Interject</b>	interrupt
<b>Squeamish</b>	easily upset
<b>Idiom</b>	Definition
<b>Tilt at windmills</b>	fight imaginary enemies
<b>Break the ice</b>	overcome initial difficulties
<b>Pay the piper</b>	bear the consequences
<b>Show one's hand</b>	reveal one's plans

# City of Gold

## Act Two

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Controversial</b>	causing argument
<b>Access</b>	ability to enter or acquire
<b>Landmark</b>	historic
<b>Paragon</b>	a model of excellence
<b>Alleged</b>	supposed or reported
<b>Preclude</b>	prevent
<b>Fetter</b>	tie or chain
<b>Invalidate</b>	cancel
<b>Asperity</b>	bitterness of temper
<b>Epithet</b>	a descriptive name
<b>Accomplice</b>	one who helps another in wrongdoing
<b>Complicity</b>	partnership in wrongdoing
<b>Culpability</b>	guilt or blame
<b>Recant</b>	take back previous statements
<b>Whitewash</b>	conceal defects
<b>Liquidation</b>	disposal of
<b>Extrinsic</b>	coming from the outside
<b>Nomadic</b>	wandering
Idiom	Definition
<b>The grapevine</b>	an informal means of spreading information

# City of Gold

## Act Three

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Aegis</b>	protection or sponsorship
<b>Congenial</b>	agreeable or sympathetic
<b>Initiate</b>	begin
<b>Awesome</b>	overwhelming
<b>Deplorable</b>	pitiable
<b>Puny</b>	weak or unimportant
<b>Disperse</b>	scatter or spread
<b>Imbibe</b>	drink
<b>Doddering</b>	shaking with old age
<b>Senile</b>	weak as a result of old age
<b>Longevity</b>	a long duration
<b>Sage</b>	a wise man or philosopher
<b>Revere</b>	admire or honor
<b>Virile</b>	manly
<b>Hoard</b>	accumulate
<b>Rue</b>	regret
<b>Obliterate</b>	wipe out or destroy
<b>Detriment</b>	damage or injury
<b>Debris</b>	fragments
<b>Eruption</b>	bursting out
<b>Conflagration</b>	a great fire
Idiom	Definition
<b>In the doldrums</b>	in a bored or depressed state



# City of Gold

## Act Four

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Impede</b>	hinder or interfere
<b>Cacophony</b>	unpleasant noise
<b>Vulnerable</b>	susceptible
<b>Serenity</b>	peaceful repose
<b>Compatible</b>	harmonious
<b>Sedate</b>	quiet or undisturbed
<b>Disgruntled</b>	displeased
<b>Equanimity</b>	composure or calmness
<b>Infallible</b>	always right
<b>Propinquity</b>	nearness in time or place
<b>Bedlam</b>	uproar or confusion
<b>Irrational</b>	absurd or unreasonable
<b>Moribund</b>	dying
<b>Avarice</b>	greed or passion for riches
<b>Exploit</b>	use for selfish purposes
<b>Nadir</b>	the lowest point
<b>Conflagration</b>	an enormous fire
<b>Insatiable</b>	impossible to satisfy
<b>Eradicate</b>	wipe out completely
<b>Complicity</b>	participate in a wrongful act
<b>Accomplice</b>	one who helps in wrongdoing
Idiom	Definition
<b>Lock, stock, and barrel</b>	entirely or completely
<b>A feather in one's cap</b>	something to be proud of