

## En 102--Vocabulary Exercise Set 1

Use the context of the following sentences to determine the meanings of the given words. Next to each word, write in cursive what you think the meaning might be. For this part of the homework, don't look the word up in the dictionary. (12 points)

1. **balmy** \_\_\_\_\_
  - The nights in Florida are very **balmy**—soothing, mild and tranquil.
  - The **balmy** weather was a welcome change from the harsh, chill Wisconsin winter back home.
2. **beguile** \_\_\_\_\_
  - At the car dealership, I remembered my father's warning to avoid being **beguiled** by deceitful salesmen.
  - "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to **beguile** you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming," Lincoln wrote [to a bereaved mother].
3. **buckler** \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus Christ Himself is the Christian's **buckler**, the shield that deflects every enemy blow.
  - The archer protected his chest and shoulders with a **buckler**; and on his legs and body, he wore a coat of iron mail.
4. **constrain** \_\_\_\_\_
  - The weak economy and diminishing corporate profit **constrained** businesses to enact hiring freezes.
  - The love of Christ **constrains** us; it compels us to live for Him.
5. **deft** \_\_\_\_\_
  - He **deftly** dodged the verbal assaults, and with great wit turned the stinging words back on his accusers.
  - The circus elephants had been trained to pick up coins, turn knobs, and do many other **deft**, skillful maneuvers with their trunks.
6. **embalm** \_\_\_\_\_
  - The undertaker **embalmed** the body, preparing it for burial.
7. **frenzy** \_\_\_\_\_
  - Kara went on a spending **frenzy** buying a new house, a new car, clothes, and furniture.
  - The National Mall became the scene of **frenzied** activity as excited mobs congregated before the inauguration.
8. **homely** \_\_\_\_\_
  - She had a glamorous name, but her face was **homely** and her mind dull.
  - The crushing news made his face contort, giving him a more **homely** appearance than he normally had.
9. **languish** \_\_\_\_\_
  - For Sale signs **languish** on lawns for months as desperate homeowners seek to offload their property.
  - Some American churches **languish**, but others hold their own or even thrive.
10. **muse** \_\_\_\_\_
  - I cannot comprehend God's love for me, yet I like to **muse** on the theme.
  - Let me **muse** on your problem for a while, and I'll see if I can figure out a solution.
11. **pestilence** \_\_\_\_\_
  - The **pestilence** threatened the state's agriculture--and set the federal government back \$100 million to eliminate.
  - It's an appealing concept: sunny plants that thwart **pestilence** and blight even as they brighten your garden with blossoms.
12. **prose** \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fittingly, the accolades on his bronze Hall plaque start off with this fact, rather than flowery **prose** : "Holds many National League records ..."
  - British author George Orwell was a man of bracing intellectual honesty, a man whose **prose** was as hard and clear as a driving rain.

