

# Romeo & Juliet Vocabulary

## Act One, Prologue

1. [dignity](#) high office or rank or station

Two households, both alike in **dignity**

2. [rank](#) position in a social hierarchy

A king or queen would be ranked at the top of a social hierarchy.

3. [scene](#) the place where some action occurs

In fair Verona, where we lay our **scene**,

4. [mutiny](#) engage in an open rebellion against an authority

From ancient grudge break to new **mutiny**,

A person who rebels and takes part in mutiny, is said to be mutinous.

5. [civil](#) of or occurring between or among citizens of the state

Where **civil** blood makes **civil** hands unclean.

6. [fatal](#) bringing death

From forth the **fatal** loins of these two foes

7. [loins](#) the region of the hips and groin and lower abdomen

From forth the fatal **loins** of these two foes

8. [prologue](#) an introduction to a play

In Romeo and Juliet, the prologue summarizes the story; it even includes details about the ending.

9. [piteous](#) deserving or inciting a feeling of sympathy and sorrow

Whose misadventured **piteous** overthrows

10. [strife](#) lack of agreement or harmony

Do with their death bury their parents' **strife**.

11. [passage](#) the act of moving from one state or place to the next

The fearful **passage** of their death-mark'd love,

12. [rage](#) a feeling of intense anger

And the continuance of their parents' **rage**

13. [traffic](#) things coming and going in a particular locality

Is now the two hours' **traffic** of our stage;

14. [attend](#) give heed to

The which if you with patient ears **attend**,

15. [heed](#) pay close attention to

"To attend" to something or "to pay heed" to something are both verbs meaning to pay attention.

16. [toil](#) work hard

What here shall miss, our **toil** shall strive to mend.

In the prologue of Romeo and Juliet, the chorus (person speaking) explains that the playgoers should "toil", meaning "work hard" at paying attention to the play so as to understand the full story which is only summarized in the prologue.

17. [strive](#) to exert much effort or energy

What here shall miss, our toil shall **strive** to mend.

To understand the meaning of the example sentence better, replace "shall" with "we will".