

1776

by David McCullough

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: bastion, confer (2), consequence (2), conspicuous, contemptible, decisive (2), formidable, impetuous, impudent, inhabitant, minutes, parliament, providence, resolve (2), siege, utmost



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	A
19	B
20	C

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. These rules are a **bastion** against corruption.
 - A. defensive fortification
 - B. weak spot
 - C. prime example
2. We **conferred** about a plan of action.
 - A. worried
 - B. asked
 - C. talked
3. The university **conferred** an honorary degree on its most famous former student, who never graduated.
 - A. gave
 - B. denied
 - C. publicized
4. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
5. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
6. She is the most **conspicuous** person on the President's cabinet, often appearing on television.
 - A. easy to notice
 - B. hard to trust
 - C. quick to argue
7. She is a **contemptible** liar.
 - A. good (at pretending)
 - B. deserving no respect
 - C. unreliable
8. Tonight, they play the **decisive** game seven of the series.
 - A. determining an outcome
 - B. hardest so far
 - C. most watched
9. We need a **decisive** leader who can act quickly without losing time in consultation.
 - A. unhesitating
 - B. intelligent
 - C. popular
10. The challenge is **formidable**.
 - A. trivial
 - B. understood
 - C. intimidating
11. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
12. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet

13. The inhabitants of the village were very friendly.
- A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors
14. I always review the **minutes** to make sure there are no errors.
- A. written record of what happened at a meeting
 - B. plans that detail how something will be done
 - C. time that has just passed
15. The Sheik of Kuwait was admired for voluntarily creating a **parliament** to share power with him.
- A. religious gathering
 - B. legislative assembly
 - C. private fortress
16. By some stroke of **providence**, the rain stopped just as the wedding began.
- A. careful human planning
 - B. fortunate divine timing
 - C. stubborn bad luck
17. The Security Council **resolved** that Israel should withdraw.
- A. considered in executive committee
 - B. could not agree
 - C. voiced an opinion by formal group vote
18. She is testing my **resolve** to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
 - B. ability
 - C. optimism
19. The castle was under **siege** for months, with the enemy forces relentlessly attacking its walls.
- A. fortified defense
 - B. prolonged attack
 - C. passionate negotiation
20. She handled the fragile artifact with the **utmost** care.
- A. least
 - B. usual
 - C. greatest

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 At Westminster people were packed solid, many having stood since morning, hoping for a glimpse of the King or some of the notables of **Parliament**.
 - A. a place where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
 - B. legislative assembly that passes laws (existing in some countries)
 - C. someone who believes that all knowledge is derived from experience
- 2 He would trust to **Providence** and his high sense of duty.
 - A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 - B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 3 When the outcome at Bunker Hill became known in the last week of July, it only hardened the King's **resolve**.
 - A. firmness of purpose
 - B. wrongly translating
 - C. difficult situation
- 4 In Philadelphia, Congress **resolved** that in the event General Washington found it necessary to withdraw from New York, there must be "no damage" done to the city, as Washington was informed in a letter from John Hancock.
 - A. promised, guaranteed, or indicated certainty of something
 - B. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
 - C. formally decided
- 5 The King was praised for his resolution to uphold the interests and honor of the kingdom, praised for his **decisiveness**.
 - A. the quality of making quick decisions and sticking by them
 - B. influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
 - C. the state or quality of expressing or displaying sexual activity or violence with detailed clarity
- 6 But as resounding as the British victory had been, it was not a **decisive** victory.
 - A. conclusive in settling a matter
 - B. relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 - C. able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
- 7 The power of the empire would be "exerted to the **utmost**," he wrote.
 - A. not real
 - B. allowing
 - C. greatest
- 8 His defects were perceived to be a certain "nervous temperament" and susceptibility to poor health, **impetuousness**, and acute sensitivity to criticism.
 - A. impulsiveness (the trait of acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. related to the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - C. relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating
- 9 AT THE START of the **siege** there had been no American army.
 - A. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
 - B. a military tactic in which a fortified place is surrounded and isolated while it is attacked over time

or:

any prolonged attack, effort, or period of trouble

 - C. a workplace where people do scientific or medical research, or produce drugs or chemicals (also used figuratively) OR (as an adjective) related to such a place

- 10 *The British still held Charlestown, which was largely in ruins, and Bunker Hill, which was their citadel and a **formidable** advantage.*
- A. the quality of disagreeing
 - B. the quality of being Dutch
 - C. intimidating or impressive
- 11 *Yet he had attended Congress in his splendid blue and buff uniform, **conspicuously** signaling a readiness to take command.*
- A. easily noticed -- typically attracting attention such as by being large, flashy, or unusual
 - B. in a manner that explains or demonstrates an understanding of something in a particular way
 - C. of mental activity of which one is not aware, but which can influence feelings and behavior
- 12 *The townspeople had been given advance warning and **consequently** no one was killed, but the entire population was without homes on the eve of winter.*
- A. resultantly (as a result)
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 13 *The reply from Washington, written in Joseph Reed's hand, said, "We have made no discovery of any movement here of any **consequence**."*
- A. translates
 - B. importance
 - C. sticks out
- 14 *We found that very few, even among the oldest **inhabitants**, had ever seen a cannon.*
- A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. people (who live in a particular place)
 - C. things designed to stop something else
- 15 *Harvard, in the spirit of the moment, **conferred** an honorary degree on the man who had had almost no formal schooling.*
- A. gave
 - B. left a place, job or position previously occupied
 - C. having multiple areas of control or concentration
- 16 *The two **conferred** for several hours, going over the map of New Jersey and reviewing plans.*
- A. left a place, job or position previously occupied
 - B. having multiple areas of control or concentration
 - C. talked
- 17 *Each of these **bastions** was to be surrounded with a broad ditch and all were to be connected by a line of entrenchments reaching a mile or more.*
- A. defensive fortifications
 - B. things that are not obvious, but noticeable by someone with adequate sensitivity and relevant knowledge
 - C. a noticeable red (or brown) discolorations of sea water caused by excessive growth of microscopic algae
- 18 *A more **impudent**, false, and atrocious proclamation was never fabricated by the hands of man.*
- A. alternative medicine using extremely diluted doses of a substance to treat the same symptoms larger doses cause
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. working against psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 19 *In the words of the **minutes** of the meeting: "It was submitted to the consideration of the council whether, under all circumstances, it would not be eligible to leave Long Island and its dependencies [fortifications] and remove the army to New York."*
- A. formal notes
 - B. results or predictable values
 - C. things not easily set on fire
- 20 *Indeed, in a letter to Congress written that same day, Washington portrayed much of the army as plainly "**contemptible**."*
- A. the quality or degree of not being straightforward
 - B. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
 - C. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	parliament (<i>with a lowercase "p"</i>)	Used 28 times in this book.
2	B	providence (<i>as in: divine providence</i>)	Used 14 times in this book.
3	A	resolve (<i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
4	C	resolve (<i>as in: This committee hereby resolves...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
5	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive decision maker</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive defeat</i>)	Used 11 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	utmost	Used 25 times in this book.
8	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	B	siege	Used 23 times in this book.
10	C	formidable	Used 13 times in this book.
11	A	conspicuous	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
12	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	inhabitant	Used 15 times in this book.
15	A	confer (<i>as in: confer an honorary degree</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	confer (<i>as in: confer with her coach</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	bastion	Used 6 times in this book.
18	B	impudent	Used 4 times in this book.
19	A	minutes (<i>as in: keep the minutes</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	contemptible	Used 4 times in this book.