

A Room of One's Own

by Virginia Woolf

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
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: contradict, devise, dubious, gesticulate, grievance, hinder, inferior, innumerable, moreover, obscure (2), obsolete, perpetual, precede, predominant, retinue, satire, sequel, trivial, venerable



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
2. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
3. She gave a **dubious** look when he claimed to have met the president.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. polite
 - C. joyful
4. I couldn't hear what they were saying or see their faces, but by their **gesticulations**, I'm sure they were angry at each other.
 - A. gestures
 - B. facial expressions
 - C. tones of voice
5. It is a long-standing **grievance**.
 - A. complaint
 - B. connection
 - C. agreement
6. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
 - A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
7. The cheaper headphones sounded **inferior** to the ones she usually used.
 - A. lower in quality
 - B. higher in quality
 - C. equal in value
8. **Innumerable** stars seemed to fill the clear night sky.
 - A. too many to count
 - B. easy to count
 - C. barely noticeable
9. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
 - A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
10. She left instructions for us, but they are so **obscure** we can't agree on what they are.
 - A. unrelated to the subject at hand
 - B. controversial
 - C. not clearly expressed or understood
11. An Internet search proved she had plagiarized from an **obscure** poem written in 1920.
 - A. not known to many people
 - B. well-known decades ago
 - C. kept secret

12. That old phone is obsolete.
- A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
13. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
14. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
15. The Kurds are predominantly Sunni Muslim.
- A. most commonly
 - B. always
 - C. seldom
16. The queen traveled with a large retinue of servants and guards to ensure her safety and comfort.
- A. car
 - B. plane
 - C. group
17. Through satire, the cartoon exposed how ridiculous the new policy looked in practice.
- A. literal description
 - B. factual reporting
 - C. humorous criticism
18. They were so confident *Lord of the Rings* would be successful, they filmed some of the sequels with the first film.
- A. movies that continued the story
 - B. interviews of actors expected to become famous
 - C. expensive promotional scenes
19. I have heard only trivial objections.
- A. convincing
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. unimportant
20. Many were surprised that a venerable institution like Bear Stearns could so rapidly go out of business.
- A. large and successful
 - B. long respected
 - C. popular

Vocabulary in Context

A Room of One's Own

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *On the further bank the willows wept in **perpetual** lamentation, their hair about their shoulders.*
 - A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 2 *Nor did I at first understand that the **gesticulations** of a curious-looking object, in a cut-away coat and evening shirt, were aimed at me.*
 - A. gestures (hand or body movements) made while speaking or to express something
 - B. descriptions of unfavorable opinions; or acts of sharing unfavorable opinions
 - C. members of the Society of Jesus (known for their schools and missionary work)
- 3 *Moreover, I recollected, as I put this plan into execution, it is in this famous library that the manuscript of Thackeray's ESMOND is also preserved.*
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 4 *Venerable and calm, with all its treasures safe locked within its breast, it sleeps complacently and will, so far as I am concerned, so sleep for ever.*
 - A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. respected (worthy of respect) -- typically because of age or position
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 5 *As I leant against the wall the University indeed seemed a sanctuary in which are preserved rare types which would soon be **obsolete** if left to fight for existence on the pavement of the Strand.*
 - A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 6 *The partridges, many and various, came with all their **retinue** of sauces and salads, the sharp and the sweet, each in its order; their potatoes, thin as coins but not so hard; their sprouts, foliated as rosebuds but more succulent.*
 - A. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
 - B. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
 - C. a group of people following and attending to an important person
- 7 *Innumerable beadles were fitting innumerable keys into well-oiled locks; the treasure-house was being made secure for another night.*
 - A. too numerous to be counted
 - B. able to meet and talk with
 - C. the quality of disagreeing
- 8 *The inevitable **sequel** to lunching and dining at Oxbridge seemed, unfortunately, to be a visit to the British Museum.*
 - A. something that follows and continues something else -- especially a film or book
 - or more rarely: something that follows as a result of something else
 - B. a math value that tells how many times a number is multiplied by itself to reach another number -- often used to describe very big or very small quantities
 - C. a diplomat appointed by a government to live in a foreign country and help its citizens visiting that country; or the offices of that person and assistants
- 9 *It was impossible to make head or tail of it all, I decided, glancing with envy at the reader next door who was making the neatest abstracts, headed often with an A or a B or a C, while my own notebook rioted with the wildest scribble of **contradictory** jottings.*
 - A. in disagreement
 - B. relative amount
 - C. dramatic change

- 10 *This heat took many forms; it showed itself in **satire**, in sentiment, in curiosity, in reprobation.*
 A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 B. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
 C. a way of making fun of people or ideas -- often through exaggeration
- 11 *In modern tragedy the same **predominance** exists.*
 A. most frequent, common, or important; or having more power and influence
 B. one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 C. a psychological disorder characterized by excessive distrust of others
- 12 *For here again we come within range of that very interesting and **obscure** masculine complex which has had so much influence upon the woman's movement; that deep-seated desire, not so much that SHE shall be inferior as that HE shall be superior, which plants him wherever one looks, not only in front of the arts, but barring the way to politics too, even when the risk to himself seems infinitesimal and the suppliant humble and devoted.*
 A. the state of doing something intentionally
 B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 C. little understood
- 13 *...thanks to the toils of those **obscure** women in the past, of whom I wish we knew more,*
 A. not known to many people
 B. the state of doing something unintentionally
 C. the state or degree of agreeing or approving
- 14 *On the contrary, it is harassed and distracted with hates and **grievances**.*
 A. complaints
 B. sympathies
 C. main roads
- 15 *But this is all '**dubious** gossip'*
 A. doubtful (not to be relied upon)
 B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
 C. relating to realities beyond scientific understanding OR inspiring a sense of wonder or mystery; or beyond human comprehension
- 16 *Both in France and in England the women poets **precede** the women novelists.*
 A. notable difference
 B. come to terms with
 C. to go or do before
- 17 *Speaking crudely, football and sport are 'important'; the worship of fashion, the buying of clothes '**trivial**.'*
 A. not sincere
 B. intentional
 C. unimportant
- 18 *Jane Austen looked at it and laughed at it and **devised** a perfectly natural, shapely sentence proper for her own use and never departed from it.*
 A. not provided with investment funds
 B. came up with (invented or created)
 C. stopped (something from happening)
- 19 *And one must conclude that it would be a thousand pities if it were **hindered** or wasted, for it was won by centuries of the most drastic discipline, and there is nothing to take its place.*
 A. not interacting; or not interested
 B. not provided with investment funds
 C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 20 *I have referred to Professor X and given prominence to his statement that women are intellectually, morally and physically **inferior** to men.*
 A. (adjective) of low quality, or of lower quality or rank than something else OR (more rarely as a noun) a person of lower rank or status
 B. relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
 C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
2	A	gesticulate	Used 2 times in this book.
3	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
4	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word
6	C	retinue	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	innumerable	Used 8 times in this book.
8	A	sequel	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
10	C	satire (<i>as in: wrote a satire</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
11	A	predominant	Used 5 times in this book.
12	C	obscure (<i>as in: the view or directions are obscure</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	A	obscure (<i>as in: the famous and the obscure</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	grievance	Used 6 times in this book.
15	A	dubious	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
16	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	C	trivial	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
18	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
19	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
20	A	inferior	Used 15 times in this book.