

An Inspector Calls

by J. B. Priestley

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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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: agitate, agony, alcove, bewilder, complacent, disconcerting, dissent, dubious, hysteria, inevitable, infirmary, inquire, inquiry, magistrate, pessimistic, prejudice, pretense, sulk, vindictive, wretched



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
2. She cried out in **agony**.
 - A. sudden surprise
 - B. intense anger
 - C. intense suffering
3. We shared an intimate dinner in one of the restaurant's **alcoves**.
 - A. outdoor patios
 - B. spacious rooms
 - C. recessed or secluded spaces
4. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
5. This team could win State if they stay hungry instead of getting too **complacent**.
 - A. worried
 - B. distracted
 - C. satisfied
6. She looked **disconcerted** by the discovery.
 - A. angered or frustrated
 - B. disturbed or unsettled
 - C. made proud
7. The Supreme Court was unanimous except for one **dissenting** opinion.
 - A. disagreeing
 - B. supporting
 - C. withheld
8. She gave a **dubious** look when he claimed to have met the president.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. polite
 - C. joyful
9. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
10. The leaves fall each year with the **inevitable** change of the seasons.
 - A. certain to happen
 - B. complete or total
 - C. minor
11. I walked her to the campus **infirmary**.
 - A. security office
 - B. health service
 - C. library
12. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
 - A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task

13. The official inquiry has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
- A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
14. The magistrate set bail at \$10,000.
- A. attorney
 - B. queen or king
 - C. judge
15. Her outlook on the future was quite pessimistic, as she worried about the economy and the environment.
- A. expecting that things will turn out well
 - B. expecting that things will turn out badly
 - C. having no expectation of how things will turn out
16. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may prejudice the jury against the defendant.
- A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in
17. The country maintains a pretense of a free press.
- A. strong presence
 - B. false appearance
 - C. diverse presence
18. She sulked for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
- A. worked tirelessly to improve
 - B. was unhappy and unsociable
 - C. was angry and lashed out
19. She's not a vindictive person.
- A. easy-going
 - B. revengeful
 - C. driven
20. The photograph showed poor people in a wretched village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. foolish or thoughtless

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 Gerald, I'm going to tell you frankly, without any **pretenses**, that your engagement to Sheila means a tremendous lot to me.
A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
B. appearances or actions to help one pretend
C. acts of crediting (a source for something)
- 2 There's a good deal of silly talk about these days—but—and I speak as a hard-headed business man, who has to take risks and know what he's about—I say, you can ignore all this silly **pessimistic** talk.
A. of a guitar or other musical instrument: not using electricity to amplify sound
B. expecting that things will turn out badly; or focusing on the bad part of things
C. relating to the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
- 3 Just because the Kaiser makes a speech or two, or a few German of **Beers** have too much to drink and begin talking nonsense, you'll hear some people say that war's **inevitable**.
A. certain to happen
B. size or dimension
C. circular movement
- 4 I have an idea that your mother—Lady Croft—while she doesn't object to my girl—feels you might have done better for yourself socially — (GERALD, rather embarrassed, begins to murmur some **dissent**, but BIRLING checks him.)
A. to disagree; or disagreement
B. tell someone about something
C. something repeated regularly
- 5 **Laughs complacently**.
A. in a manner that relates to properties of sound or hearing
B. in a manner that causes great mental or physical suffering
C. with satisfaction or contentment (unworried and satisfied)
- 6 He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a **disconcerting** habit of looking hard at the person he addresses before actually speaking.
A. beginning to fight again
B. disturbing or unsettling
C. influencing or effecting
- 7 It's a perfectly straightforward case, and as it happened more than eighteen months ago—nearly two years ago—obviously it has nothing whatever to do with the **wretched** girl's suicide.
A. not easily identified
B. miserable or very bad
C. exactness or accuracy
- 8 **Sulkily**.
A. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
C. in a manner that is not intense, or less active
- 9 This afternoon a young woman drank some disinfectant, and died, after several hours of **agony**, tonight in the Infirmary.
A. size or dimension
B. circular movement
C. intense suffering
- 10 This afternoon a young woman drank some disinfectant, and died, after several hours of agony, tonight in the **Infirmary**.
A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
B. a small facility where patients receive treatment
C. a state in which there is little ability to think

- 11 *Other four exchange bewildered and perturbed glances*
 A. confused
 B. restored
 C. collided
- 12 *With hysterical laugh, to GERALD.*
 A. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
 C. marked by a colonnade (series of regularly spaced columns) surrounding a building or enclosing a courtyard
- 13 *And now you've made up your mind I must obviously be a selfish vindictive creature.*
 A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 B. desirous of seeking revenge or wanting to hurt someone
 C. not capable of surviving; or not capable of being done
- 14 *I realize that you may have to conduct some sort of inquiry, but I must say that so far you seem to be conducting it in a rather peculiar and offensive manner.*
 A. small quantity or indication
 B. reason (for doing something)
 C. questioning or investigating
- 15 *You know, of course, that my husband was Lord Mayor only two years ago and that he's still a magistrate?*
 A. someone who shows
 B. people who attack
 C. judicial official
- 16 *I think it was simply a piece of gross impertinence—quite deliberate—and naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her case.*
 A. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 B. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drunk, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 17 *Crossing D. R. Agitated now.*
 A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 C. not calm; or stirred up (often emotionally)
- 18 *Ile meets their inquiring stares.*
 A. gradually adding or removing
 B. asking about or looking into
 C. thinking about or discussing
- 19 *(Dubiously, crossing R. C.) Yes—well*
 A. doubtfully or suspiciously
 B. not capable of being found
 C. not in a self-aware manner
- 20 *ERIC passes alcove entrance.*
 A. a room leading to a larger or more important room
 B. extensive plain without trees (associated with eastern Russia and Siberia)
 C. a recessed or secluded space -- such as in a room or garden

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	pretense	Used 2 times in this play.
2	B	pessimistic	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	inevitable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
4	A	dissent	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	C	complacent	High-utility academic word
6	B	disconcerting	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	wretched	Used 2 times in this play.
8	B	sulk	Used 3 times in this play.
9	C	agony	Used 4 times in this play.
10	B	infirmary	Used 9 times in this play.
11	A	bewilder	Used 2 times in this play.
12	A	hysteria	Used 6 times in this play.
13	B	vindictive	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this play.
15	C	magistrate	Used 2 times in this play.
16	C	prejudice	Used 3 times in this play.
17	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play.
18	B	inquire	Used 2 times in this play.
19	A	dubious	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
20	C	alcove	Used 12 times in this play.