

Araby

by James Joyce

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: amiable, anguish, annihilate, ballad, curt, deride, detach, devout, discreet, distinct, diverge, incessant, innumerable, liberate, linger, monotonous, pervasive, summon, tedious, Walter Scott



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
2. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
3. Black holes **annihilate** all traces of what falls into them.
 - A. carefully preserve
 - B. slowly examine
 - C. completely destroy
4. The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
 - A. traditional short story
 - B. dramatic performance on stage
 - C. song that tells a story
5. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were curt replies.
 - A. angry
 - B. selfish
 - C. short
6. She **derided** him as *hormone-ravaged*.
 - A. whispered about
 - B. sympathized with
 - C. made fun of
7. These days, she seems emotionally **detached** whenever she talks about him.
 - A. separated
 - B. connected
 - C. heightened
8. He is a **devout** Catholic who attends Mass weekly.
 - A. openly hostile
 - B. mildly curious
 - C. deeply religious
9. I will be **discreet** in my investigation.
 - A. thorough
 - B. quick
 - C. subtle
10. Two **distinct** brain networks guide our judgments.
 - A. different
 - B. similar
 - C. identical
11. We had a lot in common when we were younger, but then our interests began to **diverge**.
 - A. get weaker or less enthusiastic
 - B. move in opposition to each other
 - C. move apart or become different
12. Night and day we live with the **incessant** noise of the city.
 - A. loud
 - B. continuous
 - C. pleasant

13. Innumerable stars seemed to fill the clear night sky.
- A. too many to count
 - B. easy to count
 - C. barely noticeable
14. She writes to liberate her readers from social conformity.
- A. teach
 - B. free
 - C. instruct
15. The sweet smell of cookies lingered in the kitchen for hours.
- A. spread quickly
 - B. remained a long time
 - C. smelled good
16. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, monotonous roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
17. It is a country where corruption pervades their government at every level.
- A. is stopped by
 - B. is spread in
 - C. is remembered by
18. She received a summons from the court.
- A. official call to appear
 - B. letter of recommendation
 - C. payment receipt
19. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it tedious.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
20. Walter Scott's poem, *The Lady of the Lake*, is largely forgotten, but has influenced familiar aspects of Western culture.
- A. Scottish poet and author of historical novels such as *Ivanhoe*, and *Rob Roy*
 - B. long-lasting popular English rock band probably best known for 60s and 70s hits, but still very popular
 - C. British poet and painter highly regarded today for his expressiveness and creativity (1757-1827)

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 An uninhabited house of two storeys stood at the blind end, **detached** from its neighbours in a square ground. The other houses of the street, conscious of decent lives within them, gazed at one another with brown imperturbable faces.
 - A. separated OR emotionally uninvolved (separated from emotions)
 - B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
 - C. legally ordered to provide documents, or to appear as a witness
- 2 Among these I found a few paper-covered books, the pages of which were curled and damp: *The Abbot*, by Walter Scott, *The Devout Communicant* and *The Memoirs of Vidocq*.
 - A. Scottish poet and author of historical novels such as *Ivanhoe*, and *Rob Roy*
 - B. U.S. writer and humorist best known for his novels about Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn
 - C. Nobel Prize winning American novelist known for complex stories about the American South
- 3 Among these I found a few paper-covered books, the pages of which were curled and damp: *The Abbot*, by Walter Scott, *The Devout Communicant* and *The Memoirs of Vidocq*.
 - A. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable
 - B. of a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
 - C. devoted (with enthusiastic religious belief)
- 4 I kept her brown figure always in my eye and, when we came near the point at which our ways **diverged**, I quickened my pace and passed her.
 - A. not having taken power or responsibility
 - B. compensated for a loss; or paid a reward
 - C. to move apart; or be or become different
- 5 I had never spoken to her, except for a few casual words, and yet her name was like a **summons** to all my foolish blood.
 - A. calls forth; or a document calling to come
 - B. won't answer questions; or blocks progress
 - C. moves back and forth; or is unsure or weak
- 6 We walked through the flaring streets, jostled by drunken men and bargaining women, amid the curses of labourers, the shrill litanies of shop-boys who stood on guard by the barrels of pigs' cheeks, the nasal chanting of street-singers, who sang a come-all-you about O'Donovan Rossa, or a **ballad** about the troubles in our native land.
 - A. related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
 - B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - C. a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 7 Through one of the broken panes I heard the rain impinge upon the earth, the fine **incessant** needles of water playing in the sodden beds.
 - A. poor ability to make a decision
 - B. continuous (and often annoying)
 - C. non-traditional or non-standard
- 8 What **innumerable** follies laid waste my waking and sleeping thoughts after that evening!
 - A. too numerous to be counted
 - B. able to meet and talk with
 - C. the quality of disagreeing
- 9 I wished to **annihilate** the tedious intervening days.
 - A. stop (something from happening)
 - B. fulfill one's highest potential
 - C. to completely destroy or defeat
- 10 I wished to annihilate the **tedious** intervening days.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. boring or monotonous

- 11 I watched my master's face pass from **amiability** to sternness; he hoped I was not beginning to idle.
- the quality of being friendly and agreeable
 - computer code that performs a specific task
 - relating to where attention is concentrated
- 12 I had hardly any patience with the serious work of life which, now that it stood between me and my desire, seemed to me child's play, ugly **monotonous** child's play.
- increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
 - interesting and/or stimulating
 - lacking in variety and/or boring
- 13 He was fussing at the hallstand, looking for the hat-brush, and answered me **curtly**: "Yes, boy, I know."
- in a manner that makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - in a manner that is the most exciting or important part of a series of events
 - in a manner that uses few words or is abrupt and perhaps discourteous or rude
- 14 The high cold empty gloomy rooms **liberated** me and I went from room to room singing.
- restored
 - set free
 - collided
- 15 Their cries reached me weakened and **indistinct** and, leaning my forehead against the cool glass, I looked over at the dark house where she lived.
- not clear or easily identifiable
 - indicating approval or agreement
 - important, serious, or dangerous
- 16 I may have stood there for an hour, seeing nothing but the brown-clad figure cast by my imagination, touched **discreetly** by the lamplight at the curved neck, at the hand upon the railings and at the border below the dress.
- in the manner of someone who believes oneself morally superior to others
 - in a manner related to obtaining pleasure from inflicting pain on others
 - subtly (delicately--not obtrusively)
- 17 I recognised a silence like that which **pervades** a church after a service.
- is overly unhappy and unsociable
 - is spread throughout; or spreads
 - stops (something from happening)
- 18 I **lingered** before her stall, though I knew my stay was useless, to make my interest in her wares seem the more real.
- a serious intestinal infection caused by contaminated food or water
 - to remain in a place or situation longer than necessary or expected
 - people of the second most populous denomination of Islam (over 10%)
- 19 Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature driven and **derided** by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger.
- extremely or excessively concentrated or paid attention to
 - aka analyzed -- analyzed based upon a theory of psychiatry
 - laughed at or made fun of--while showing a lack of respect
- 20 Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity; and my eyes burned with **anguish** and anger.
- extreme introversion
 - extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 - extreme depression

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	detach	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	A	Walter Scott	
3	C	devout	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	diverge	High-utility academic word
5	A	summon	Used about 25 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	ballad	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	B	incessant	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	innumerable	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	C	annihilate	High-utility academic word
10	C	tedious	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	amiable	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	monotonous	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	curt	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	liberate	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	distinct	High-utility academic word
16	C	discreet (<i>as in: discreet-- not showy or gossipy</i>)	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	pervasive	High-utility academic word
18	B	linger	Used about 27 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	C	deride	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	B	anguish	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.