

Atonement

by Ian McEwan

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: adapt, adapted, banal, clarity, contemplate, contradict, dispel, intervene (2), opaque (2), precede, probation, revise, sensual, solicitor, tranquil, venerable, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- This passage is adapted from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - copied
 - read
 - changed
- The human spine is not as **well adapted** to walking upright as we would like.
 - well suited
 - known widely
 - insured
- The story was **banal**, but it had beautiful cinematography.
 - brutal
 - uninteresting
 - complicated
- The judge praised the witnesses for the **clarity** of their testimony.
 - briefness
 - courage
 - clearness
- The philosopher contemplated the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
 - wrote about
 - read about
 - thought about
- Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - disagree with
 - reinforce
 - expand upon
- The explanation helped **dispel** her fears about starting the new job.
 - confirm
 - drive away
 - intensify
- They are opposed to Russian **intervention** in their country.
 - intense feeling of happiness and excitement
 - involvement
 - severe damage -- for example by cutting up
- Decades **intervened** before the story was written.
 - passed
 - passed quickly
 - passed slowly
- The bathroom has natural light that comes through an **opaque** window.
 - high
 - openable
 - privacy
- She answered in a polite tone, but her answer was **opaque**.
 - not polite
 - not what was hoped
 - not understandable
- In English, most adjectives **precede** the noun they modify.
 - follow
 - describe
 - go before

13. She didn't adjust to college freedoms and now must pass academic probation or be expelled in the Fall.
- A. period of supervision
 - B. honors recognition
 - C. scholarship offer
14. Do you think the writer should revise the underlined sentence?
- A. remove
 - B. highlight
 - C. improve
15. She enjoyed the sensual pleasure of the warm sun on her skin.
- A. pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellect
 - C. deep empathetic understanding
16. Her solicitor advised her to settle the dispute out of court to avoid a lengthy legal battle.
- A. judge
 - B. lawyer
 - C. banker
17. After the storm passed, the village returned to its tranquil evening routine.
- A. loudly chaotic
 - B. brightly colored
 - C. peacefully calm
18. 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
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 He might be thinking she was talking to him in code, suggestively conveying her taste for the full-blooded and **sensual**.
 - A. relating to pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellectual vigor
 - C. a deep sense of empathetic understanding
- 2 As on the **preceding** afternoon, the trouble lay in assembling the cast.
 - A. beginning to fight again
 - B. influencing or effecting
 - C. prior (in time or space)
- 3 ...but Lola had crossed her arms and paid decorous, grown-up compliments through a half smile that was too **opaque** for the detection of irony.
 - A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 - B. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument
 - C. hard to read (not showing what he was thinking)
- 4 Desperate, he thought of running to the weir to fish her out from there, but the water was an **opaque** muddy green.
 - A. not sensible or careful
 - B. optimistic or agreeable
 - C. impossible to see through
- 5 His expression was of **tranquil** incomprehension.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. sincerity (realness)
 - C. calm and undisturbed
- 6 These were awesome occasions worthy of the ancient silver service; the **venerable** great-uncles and –aunts and grandparents were Victorians, from their mother's side of the family, a baffled and severe folk, a lost tribe who arrived at the house in black cloaks having wandered peevishly for two decades in an alien, frivolous century.
 - 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
- 7 It cracked loudly as it **yielded** to her unblemished incisors, and there was revealed the white edge of the sugar shell, and the dark chocolate beneath it.
 - A. with rises and falls in pitch
 - B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 8 Briony supposed she should get her cousin home, but she was reluctant to break this closeness for the moment—she had her arms around the older girl's shoulders and she seemed to **yield** now to Briony's touch.
 - A. give
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 9 The indistinct murmur of voices heard through a carpeted floor surpassed in **clarity** a typed-up transcript; a conversation that penetrated a wall or, better, two walls, came stripped of all but its essential twists and nuances.
 - A. a collection of things on public display OR a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic
 - B. the process of assigning a value on or judging the worth of something; or the result of such a process
 - C. seen, expressed, or understood clearly; or a degree of transparency such as the quality of clear water
- 10 But though she sometimes longed to rise up and **intervene**, especially if she thought Briony was in need of her, the fear of pain kept her in place.
 - A. tell someone about something
 - B. get involved to influence an outcome
 - C. something repeated regularly

- 11 He remembered no **intervening** time, no sore feet—but here he was, addressing in the politest terms an old lady who stood in the doorway of a flat-fronted terraced house.
- A. in between
 - B. unwrapping
 - C. separating
- 12 Even harder was the threat, or the confusion of feeling **contradictory** things.
- A. in disagreement
 - B. relative amount
 - C. dramatic change
- 13 That notion was due for **revision**.
- A. a type of small portable radio
 - B. confidential or secret meeting
 - C. a change; or a changed version
- 14 This illusion, or hope of one, was **dispelled** as her eyes adjusted to the gloom.
- A. spoke in an ambiguous manner that did not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. to drive away or put an end to something -- especially a feeling, idea, or doubt
 - C. proposed that someone be offered a position, be a candidate, or receive an honor
- 15 They were safe, Cecilia was with Leon, and she, Briony, was free to wander in the dark and **contemplate** her extraordinary day.
- A. restarted (a fire)
 - B. wrongly translates
 - C. consider or ponder
- 16 He discovered he was already **well adapted** to an army regime, to the terrors of kit inspection and the folding of blankets into precise squares, with the labels lined up.
- A. well suited
 - B. restraining
 - C. surrendered
- 17 It was the time of **adapting** to unthinking obedience, of learning to carry bedpans in a stack, and remembering a fundamental rule: never walk up a ward without bringing something back.
- A. strongly desiring; or a strong desire
 - B. charging (with having broken the law)
 - C. changing to fit a different situation
- 18 They lay on the far side of a great divide in time, as significant as B.C. and A.D. Before prison, before the war, before the sight of a corpse became a **banality**.
- A. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
 - B. something that is uninteresting due to a lack of anything original or unusual
 - C. a stone shaped like a disk that spins and is used to grind, sharpen or polish
- 19 At four-thirty in the morning the **probationers** were sent to their lodgings to sleep, and told to report back at eleven.
- A. a period during which a new employee is tried out on the job and during which the employee does not have all the privileges of a regular employee
 - B. an employee of a firm that serves as an intermediary between an issuer of new securities and the investing public
 - C. someone who issue commands or orders -- especially someone who rules a country and maintains power through force
- 20 Cecilia said in a quiet level voice, "When I got your letter I went to see a **solicitor**."
- A. to again think carefully and make a judgment about something
 - B. lawyer
 - C. the state or character of being absolutely sure of something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	sensual	Used 9 times in this book.
2	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
3	C	opaque (<i>as in: opaque explanation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	C	opaque (<i>as in: opaque shower door</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	tranquil	Used 9 times in this book.
6	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
7	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	clarity	Used 8 times in this book.
10	B	intervene (<i>as in: intervened in the war</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	intervene (<i>as in: in the intervening years</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
13	C	revise	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
14	B	dispel	Used 7 times in this book.
15	C	contemplate	Used 10 times in this book.
16	A	adapted (<i>as in: the species is well adapted for</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	banal	Used 3 times in this book.
19	A	probation	Used 20 times in this book.
20	B	solicitor (<i>as in: the solicitor prepared for a trial</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.