

Confessions of a Shopaholic

by Sophie Kinsella

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: approach (2), blithe, coincidence, crucial, curt, dismay, foreman, frugal, hideous, however (2), incredulous, indignant, materialistic, monogram, morose, nonchalant, prelude, retort



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
2. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
3. She was her usual unworried, **blithe** self.
 - A. carefree and happy
 - B. sleepy
 - C. busy and distracted
4. It was a fortunate **coincidence** that we ran into each other at Starbucks.
 - A. unlikely event
 - B. plan
 - C. likely event
5. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
6. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were **curt** replies.
 - A. angry
 - B. selfish
 - C. short
7. Hope was replaced by **dismay**.
 - A. satisfaction
 - B. faith
 - C. sorrow
8. If you want to leave early, you have to ask the **foreman**.
 - A. supervisor
 - B. owner
 - C. customer
9. She was raised with **frugal** habits and always orders tap water to drink at a restaurant.
 - A. health-promoting
 - B. money-saving
 - C. environmentally-conscious
10. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
11. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and

12. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
- A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
13. At first, she was incredulous--thinking the report was in error.
- A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief
14. She was indignant, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
15. I wouldn't describe myself as materialistic, but I would like some financial security.
- A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
 - C. unwilling to spend any money
16. He had a monogram embroidered on each of his dress shirts.
- A. design with initials
 - B. decorative stripe
 - C. fabric label
17. She's been morose and unsociable.
- A. angry
 - B. frustrated
 - C. unhappy
18. How could she be so nonchalant about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
19. The quiet argument was a prelude to a much larger conflict at the meeting.
- A. decision made afterward
 - B. event that came before
 - C. problem solved quickly
20. She retorted, "Takes one to know one."
- A. quickly replied
 - B. insulted back
 - C. joyfully laughed

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 As you can see, the Foreland Exotic Opportunities Savings Plan represents an entirely new **approach** to investment.
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. way of doing something
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 2 My steps slow down as I **approach** the skip and I pause, staring intently at it as though I'm interested in the words printed on the side.
 - A. get near
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 3 I mean, some of us have got **crucial** things we need to be doing.
 - A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 4 How can normal people afford to live in such **hideously** expensive places?
 - A. in a manner that relates to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. in an extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening manner
 - C. in a manner that causes great mental or physical suffering
- 5 Suze is gazing at me **incredulously**.
 - A. in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something
 - B. in a manner that intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone
 - C. with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected
- 6 "No, 's'OK," I say, **morosely** picking up the TV guide.
 - A. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
 - B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - C. unhappily -- often with a withdrawn personality
- 7 I look at her in **dismay**.
 - A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. sadness, disappointment, or worry
- 8 "Of course Becky doesn't agree with you!" **retorts** my dad.
 - A. replies quickly
 - B. tells (a story)
 - C. starts fighting
- 9 "No it's not!" says Mum **indignantly**.
 - A. with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 10 It'll become a habit to be **frugal**.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. careful not to waste
 - C. not demonstrative of
- 11 Less **materialistic**, more philosophical.
 - A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - C. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
- 12 Quickly I retrace my steps and walk **nonchalantly** into the entrance hall, trying to look as though I come here all the time.
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. calmly (appearing unconcerned)
 - C. in a manner that does not stop

- 13 Eric Foreman, *Daily World*.
A. a person chosen to lead and speak for a group, especially at work or in a courtroom
B. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
C. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
- 14 *I mean, the coincidence!*
A. a situation where things happened at the same time by chance even though it was unlikely
B. a person who studies DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
C. baseball: a pitch thrown with little spin (so that it moves in an unpredictable manner)
- 15 *Suitcases, weekend bags, monogrammed hatboxes ...With weak legs I wander into a corner and sit down on a carpeted pedestal next to a red leather vanity case.*
A. added as a design that is based on alphabetic letters; or the act of adding such a design to something
B. expressed personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
C. gradually destroyed or changed the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
- 16 *How can I have just blithely led my life ignoring an entire retail sector?*
A. in a carefree and happy manner -- often unaware of or ignoring something that should be of concern
B. in an inactive manner (accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly)
C. in a manner that is not appropriate or different than would be expected in size, amount, or degree
- 17 *"All the Preludes," I say at last.*
A. forces into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR finds guilty -- especially in court OR provides the means of finding guilty
B. something that comes before and prepares for what follows; in music, a short piece that introduces a larger work or stands alone as a brief, expressive piece (often for piano)
C. treats in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (supports someone or something; or is a customer)
- 18 *"Fine," says the girl curtly, and swipes the card.*
A. in a manner that makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
B. in a manner that is the most exciting or important part of a series of events
C. in a manner that uses few words or is abrupt and perhaps discourteous or rude
- 19 *Luckily, however, they're so bowled over that I'm making all this effort on their behalf, they don't seem to care which newspaper I'm writing for.*
A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless,* etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 20 *However much fun it would be—it wouldn't be fair or honest to go.*
A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
C. regardless of how

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary in Context
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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
3	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
4	B	hideous	Used 6 times in this book.
5	C	incredulous	Used 8 times in this book.
6	C	morose	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	dismay	Used 10 times in this book.
8	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
9	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	B	frugal	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
11	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
13	A	foreman	Used 26 times in this book.
14	A	coincidence	Used 8 times in this book.
15	A	monogram	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	blithe	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	prelude	Used 5 times in this book.
18	C	curt	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.