

Cuban Missile Crisis Speech

by John F. Kennedy

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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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: aspiration, clandestine, contradict, Cuba, deception, denounce, deploy, endorse, establish, evaluate, genuine, invoke, nevertheless, nucleus, peril, precarious, strenuous, sufficient, ultimate, undermine



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	B
16	C
17	B
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. Her **aspiration** to travel the world was finally realized when she received a job offer from an international company.
 - A. reason
 - B. payment
 - C. desire
2. The rebels held a **clandestine** meeting in the basement after midnight.
 - A. formal
 - B. secret
 - C. ordinary
3. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
4. Havana, the capital of **Cuba**, is known for its colorful architecture and classic American cars.
 - A. large Caribbean island known for high-tech industry
 - B. Mexican state that exports much coffee and sugar
 - C. communist country that is 90 miles from Florida
5. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
6. She bravely stepped forward to **denounce** the corruption within her company.
 - A. openly condemn
 - B. warmly praise
 - C. quietly ignore
7. The city **deployed** snowplows before the storm reached downtown.
 - A. sent out
 - B. held back
 - C. sold off
8. She **endorsed** his run for the office.
 - A. opposed
 - B. supported
 - C. funded
9. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
10. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding
11. She has a **genuine** interest in each of her students.
 - A. sincere (real)
 - B. fake
 - C. generous (giving)

12. In the midst of the storm, the sailors began to invoke the ancient sea gods, hoping for their protection and a safe journey home.
- A. sail towards
 - B. call upon
 - C. ignore completely
13. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
14. The small reading group became the nucleus of a schoolwide book club.
- A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
16. It is a precarious political situation.
- A. exciting
 - B. complex
 - C. dangerous
17. Landscaping is strenuous work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
18. Is there sufficient cause for a search warrant?
- A. adequate (enough)
 - B. clear or obvious
 - C. dangerous
19. When everything was included, the ultimate cost was just over \$200.
- A. estimated
 - B. preliminary
 - C. final
20. The purpose of the UN Human Rights Commission is undermined by dictators who have maneuvered to control it.
- A. strengthened
 - B. weakened
 - C. celebrated

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 Good evening my fellow citizens: This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba.*
 - large Caribbean island known for high-tech industry
 - Mexican state that exports much coffee and sugar
 - communist country that is 90 miles from Florida
- 2 Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has **established** the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island.*
 - accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - proven
- 3 The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a **nuclear** strike capability against the Western Hemisphere.*
 - the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - relating to the central or most important part of something
- 4 And having now confirmed and completed our **evaluation** of the evidence and our decision on a course of action, this Government feels obliged to report this new crisis to you in fullest detail.*
 - the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something
 - the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - an international boundary or a wilderness at the edge of a settled area
- 5 This action also **contradicts** the repeated assurances of Soviet spokesmen, both publicly and privately delivered, that the arms buildup in Cuba would retain its original defensive character, and that the Soviet Union had no need or desire to station strategic missiles on the territory of any other nation.*
 - disagrees
 - subtracts
 - satisfies
- 6 Neither the United States of America nor the world community of nations can tolerate deliberate **deception** and offensive threats on the part of any nation, large or small.*
 - someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 7 We no longer live in a world where only the actual firing of weapons represents a **sufficient** challenge to a nation's security to constitute maximum peril.*
 - adequate (enough -- often without being more than is needed)
 - in a manner of taking on or adopting power or responsibility
 - producing a stream of atomic particles through nuclear decay
- 8 We no longer live in a world where only the actual firing of weapons represents a sufficient challenge to a nation's security to constitute maximum **peril**.*
 - useful
 - danger
 - allows
- 9 Nuclear weapons are so destructive and ballistic missiles are so swift, that any substantially increased possibility of their use or any sudden change in their **deployment** may well be regarded as a definite threat to peace.*
 - placing or activating
 - a nerve or brain cell
 - long eventful journey

- 10 For many years both the Soviet Union and the United States, recognizing this fact, have deployed strategic nuclear weapons with great care, never upsetting the **precarious** status quo which insured that these weapons would not be used in the absence of some vital challenge.
- likely to change
 - able to be found
 - unsafe or unsure
- 11 **Nevertheless**, American citizens have become adjusted to living daily on the Bull's-eye of Soviet missiles located inside the U.S.S.R. or in submarines.
- in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 12 The 1930's taught us a clear lesson: aggressive conduct, if allowed to go unchecked and unchallenged **ultimately** leads to war.
- as another possibility
 - in a self-aware manner
 - finally; or in the end
- 13 Acting, therefore, in the defense of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the Constitution as **endorsed** by the resolution of the Congress, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately: First: To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated.
- gained advantage from
 - approved or supported
 - recognized difference
- 14 Fifth: We are calling tonight for an immediate meeting of the Organ of Consultation under the Organization of American States, to consider this threat to hemispheric security and to **invoke** articles 6 and 8 of the Rio Treaty in support of all necessary action.
- condemn
 - cite
 - criticize
- 15 Seventh and finally: I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this **clandestine**, reckless and provocative threat to world peace and to stable relations between our two nations.
- able to be found
 - secret or hidden
 - unpleasing sound
- 16 We have in the past made **strenuous** efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.
- able to be stopped from happening
 - difficult (requiring much effort)
 - improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 17 We are prepared to discuss new proposals for the removal of tensions on both sides—including the possibility of a **genuinely** independent Cuba, free to determine its own destiny.
- really
 - mainly
 - wisely
- 18 I speak to you as a friend, as one who knows of your deep attachment to your fatherland, as one who shares your **aspirations** for liberty and justice for all.
- battles
 - results
 - desires
- 19 They can only **undermine** it.
- take on or adopt
 - weaken gradually
 - make more varied
- 20 Many months of sacrifice and self-discipline lie ahead—months in which our patience and our will will be tested—months in which many threats and **denunciations** will keep us aware of our dangers.
- criticisms or accusations
 - things easily set on fire
 - interactions or interests

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary in Context
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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	Cuba	Used 19 times in this speech.
2	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word
3	C	nucleus	Used 11 times in this speech.
4	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word
5	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
6	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this speech.
7	A	sufficient	High-utility academic word
8	B	peril	Used 2 times in this speech.
9	A	deploy	Used 2 times in this speech.
10	C	precarious	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
12	C	ultimate	High-utility academic word
13	B	endorse	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	invoke	High-utility academic word
15	B	clandestine	Used 2 times in this speech.
16	B	strenuous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	A	genuine	High-utility academic word
18	C	aspiration	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	undermine	High-utility academic word
20	A	denounce	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
