

Early Cases Of Hercule Poirot

by Agatha Christie

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: accomplice, altercation, amiable, auburn, contradict, deceive, endeavor, farce, incriminate, inquiry, irony (2), minute (2), motive, nevertheless, odious, opium, placid, prostrate



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They were **accomplices** in the crime.
 - A. working together
 - B. victims together
 - C. observers together
2. We have video of the **altercation**.
 - A. fight
 - B. accident
 - C. theft
3. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
4. He admired the horse's sleek **auburn** coat as it ran across the field.
 - A. reddish-brown
 - B. pure white
 - C. jet black
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
6. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
7. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
8. The trial was a **farce**, with witnesses who clearly lied and a judge who didn't care.
 - A. thorough investigation
 - B. complete mockery
 - C. well-run procedure
9. Her actions are **incriminating**.
 - A. making her look foolish
 - B. making her look worried
 - C. making her look guilty
10. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
 - A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
11. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
 - A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
12. Her voice was dripping with **irony** as she said, "You look beautiful."
 - A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness

13. Even a minute amount of lead can be harmful to children.
A. large
B. 60 seconds
C. tiny
14. She thrives at sifting through that kind of minute detail.
A. quickly eliminated
B. available from prior research
C. including even small considerations
15. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
A. excuse
B. technique
C. reason
16. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
A. also
B. despite that
C. in addition
17. The poll tax was designed as a particularly odious violation of civil rights.
A. extremely devious
B. harmful and hidden
C. extremely dislikable
18. The illegal trade of opium has been a major source of conflict in some regions.
A. a powerful narcotic
B. a powerful herbal remedy
C. a powerful cooking additive
19. Her eyes were clear and placid.
A. calm
B. anxious
C. teary
20. He lay prostrate on the floor after collapsing from exhaustion.
A. curled up tightly
B. sitting upright
C. lying face-down

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 **Nevertheless** we can't leave the possibility of suicide out of account.
A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 2 Several people declare that they heard a violent **altercation** going on in the little supper-room, and that Eustace Beltane was one of the disputants.
A. a noisy argument, confrontation, or fight
B. a particular understanding or explanation
C. the time during which something continues
- 3 'In truth that would be ridiculous,' agreed Poirot **placidly**.
A. calmly
B. mainly
C. really
- 4 It is a curious case, full of **contradictory** features.
A. in disagreement
B. relative amount
C. dramatic change
- 5 Then I will make some little **inquiries** of my own.
A. social events or ceremonies
B. reasons for doing something
C. questions or investigations
- 6 We must seek for a **motive**.
A. small quantity or indication
B. the sacred writings of Islam
C. reason (for doing something)
- 7 His **absorption** was not so great, however, that he failed to see two **minute** strands of feather scarf wrenched off by the lady's agitated fingers.
A. awake
B. exact
C. small
- 8 Seizing my opportunity, I too knelt down, and taking the handkerchief from the sleeve, scrutinized it **minutely**.
A. in a manner that does not change
B. in a manner that deserves praise
C. with careful attention to detail
- 9 She discovered first that he was **deceiving** her-then, under your guidance, that he was trying to poison her.
A. influencing opinion
B. continuing to exist
C. lying or misleading
- 10 Everything goes to show that there was an **accomplice** inside the house.
A. person who assisted
B. act of hiring again
C. wrong understanding
- 11 I am **endeavouring** to do so.
A. working or operating
B. believing or judging
C. trying or attempting

- 12 In the same way, if someone else had placed them there to **incriminate** Parker, one would have been sufficient—the cigarette case or the glove—again not both.
- notable difference
 - come to terms with
 - make appear guilty
- 13 I gather she is still there, at Daisymead—**prostrated** by the shock.
- showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - provided evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - lying down -- typically face downward on the ground as in submission
- 14 "Thank you for your **amiability**, Doctor," said Poirot.
- the quality of being friendly and agreeable
 - computer code that performs a specific task
 - relating to where attention is concentrated
- 15 Ah, mon ami, one can have romance without golden-haired girls of matchless beauty—no; I am wrong; it is **auburn** hair that so excites you always.
- reddish-brown
 - painted white
 - challengeable
- 16 The place in question was more or less well known as an **opium**—den of the lowest description.
- a powerful narcotic
 - a powerful herbal remedy
 - a powerful cooking additive
- 17 —a strange **irony**, by the way, that led the unfortunate woman to come to this building where her rival lived—
- lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - an interesting coincidence
 - someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic
- 18 "Fact!" said General Forbes. "Heard it from old Bassington—French. And he heard it from old Badger Cotterill who'd got it from Snooks Parker."
- Miss Henderson nodded brightly. "That does seem to settle it!" she said.
- A fleeting smile showed for a minute on the face of a small man sitting near them. Miss Henderson noticed the smile. She was observant. It had shown appreciation of the **irony** underlying her last remark...
- soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - saying something that could be taken to mean the opposite of what was intended
 - belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 19 This little—**farce**—it must cease.
- (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - a ridiculous, exaggerated situation too absurd to be taken seriously; or a type of comedy that relies on absurd humor, using physical slapstick, unlikely situations, and deliberate misunderstandings
 - treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
- 20 Lady Millicent had spoken truly when she described him as an **odious** man.
- the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
 - extremely unpleasant, disgusting, dislikable, or worthy of hate

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
2	A	altercation	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	A	placid	Used 9 times in this book.
4	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 14 times in this book.
6	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
7	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
8	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
9	C	deceive	Used 12 times in this book.
10	A	accomplice	Used 8 times in this book.
11	C	endeavor	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	incriminate	Used 4 times in this book.
13	C	prostrate	Used 4 times in this book.
14	A	amiable	Used 7 times in this book.
15	A	auburn (<i>as in: auburn hair</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
16	A	opium	Used 9 times in this book.
17	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	B	farce	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	odious	Used 4 times in this book.