

Freakonomics

by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: abortion, algorithm, condemn (2), conducive, correlate, correspond, correspondent, deterrent, disparity, diverse, economics, establish (2), factor (2), innovate, phenomenon, urban, variable



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. **Abortion** is a highly controversial and divisive issue, with people holding strong opinions on both sides of the debate.
 - A. intentionally preventing pregnancy
 - B. intentionally ending pregnancy
 - C. planned adoption before birth
2. Writing the program code wasn't hard, but specifying the **algorithm** to solve the problem was challenging.
 - A. required results
 - B. required steps
 - C. possible factors
3. The United Nations **condemned** North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.
 - A. criticized
 - B. delayed
 - C. ended
4. Homeless people used to sleep there, but the building was **condemned** and torn down.
 - A. declared not suitable to be occupied
 - B. purchased by a private party
 - C. destroyed in a fire
5. Her spending habits are not **conducive** to achieving her financial goals.
 - A. helpful
 - B. harmful
 - C. irrelevant
6. Scientists **correlate** carbon emissions with rising global temperatures.
 - A. associate
 - B. contrast
 - C. replace
7. The bones in a bat's wing exactly **correspond** to those in a human forearm.
 - A. are equivalent
 - B. are opposite
 - C. are unrelated
8. Our **correspondent** in Iran was kidnapped.
 - A. reporter
 - B. worker
 - C. witness
9. The steep fine served as a **deterrent** to careless parking.
 - A. something that rewards
 - B. something that discourages
 - C. something that explains
10. The **disparity** in access to education between urban and rural areas is a significant issue.
 - A. improvement
 - B. agreement
 - C. difference
11. She is a person of **diverse** talents.
 - A. varied (different)
 - B. deeply specialized
 - C. amazing

12. She earned her degree in economics and now works at the Federal Reserve.
- A. study of stars and planets
 - B. study of ancient ruins
 - C. study of money and markets
13. Which word choice would help to establish a serious tone.
- A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
14. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with establishing the contrast between men and masculine traits.
- A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
15. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from factors making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
- A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
16. Be sure to factor the cost of insurance into your decision when you think about buying a car.
- A. do away with completely
 - B. make very angry or annoy
 - C. include for consideration
17. Companies must innovate quickly to stay ahead of their competitors.
- A. follow old rules
 - B. create new methods
 - C. imitate rivals
18. The phenomenon was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
19. Urban neighborhoods often have more buses and sidewalks than rural areas.
- A. related to a city
 - B. related to farming
 - C. related to weather
20. Her mood was variable throughout the day, sometimes cheerful and at other times noticeably quiet.
- A. consistent
 - B. changing
 - C. improving

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 It was the sort of **innovative** policing strategies put into place in New York City, where murders would fall from 2,262 in 1990 to 540 in 2005.
A. greater than zero
B. new and different
C. not demonstrating
- 2 All she had wanted was an **abortion**.
A. another battle with the same foe
B. intentionally ending a pregnancy
C. describing someone as antisocial
- 3 It was, among other **factors**, the reality that the pool of potential criminals had dramatically shrunk.
A. People who are of lower rank or status
B. things that affect a result or outcome
C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 4 What happens when the whistle-blowers' corroborating evidence is **factored** into the analysis of the match data?
A. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
B. moved to a worse or less prestigious situation
C. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
- 5 But just because two things are **correlated** does not mean that one causes the other.
A. related such that a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
B. frolicked (skipped, jumped, and/or ran around in a happy, playful manner)
C. (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
- 6 Morality, it could be argued, represents the way that people would like the world to work—whereas **economics** represents how it actually does work.
A. the quality of accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
B. baseball: pitches thrown with little spin (so that they move in an unpredictable manner)
C. the study of how limited resources are allocated in an attempt to satisfy unlimited wants
- 7 Which is a more horrifying **deterrent**: a \$500 fine for soliciting a prostitute or the thought of your friends and family ogling you on www.HookersAndJohns.com?
A. opinion of what is good and bad about something
B. something that discourages something not wanted
C. the majority denomination of Islam (almost 90%)
- 8 Now it was time to construct an **algorithm** that could tease some conclusions from this mass of data.
A. title for the head of a government body in some countries
B. precise instructions specifying how to solve some problem
C. an unborn child (or other unborn or unhatched vertebrate)
- 9 The letter a, b, c, or d indicates a correct answer; a number indicates a wrong answer, with 1 **corresponding** to a, 2 corresponding to b, and so on.
A. equivalent (representing the same value)
B. drying out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight; or making very thirsty
C. sticking out, attracting more attention than desired, or imposing on others
- 10 Years later, when he served as a rare white **correspondent** for the Pittsburgh Courier, the country's largest black newspaper, he wrote under the pseudonym Daddy Mention—after a black folk hero who, as myth told it, could outrun the blast of a sheriff's shotgun.
A. reporter
B. disorder
C. marriage

- 11 *An athlete who gets caught cheating is generally **condemned**, but most fans at least appreciate his motive: he wanted so badly to win that he bent the rules.*
- A. strongly criticized
 - B. excessively excited
 - C. nervous or confused
- 12 *These buildings were **condemned**, practically abandoned.*
- A. declared not suitable for occupation
 - B. interacted again or interested again
 - C. interacted, interested, or attracted
- 13 *Though extraordinarily **diverse**, these crimes all have a common trait: they were sins of information.*
- A. varied or (having differences amongst things of the same kind) -- especially with regard to ideas or members of a population group
 - B. submissiveness -- often behavior of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - C. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
- 14 *They constituted the sort of criminals, petty and otherwise, who sucked the life out of **urban** areas.*
- A. city
 - B. real
 - C. wise
- 15 *While crack use was hardly a black-only **phenomenon**, it hit black neighborhoods much harder than most.*
- A. something that exists or happened -- often of special interest
 - B. something that was once small, but is getting very large
 - C. something important that is hard to see or sense
- 16 *For any of a hundred reasons, she may feel that she cannot provide a home environment that is **conductive** to raising a healthy and productive child.*
- A. helpful; or tending to contribute (to something)
 - B. tending to have excessively unfavorable opinions
 - C. the state or degree of criticism or disagreement
- 17 *In examining the income gap between black and white adults—it is well **established** that blacks earn significantly less—scholars have found that the gap is virtually eradicated if the blacks' lower eighth-grade test scores are taken into account.*
- A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. known or proven
- 18 *His reputation for candid thinking on race was already well **established**.*
- A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. set (firmly existing)
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 19 *Correlation is nothing more than a statistical term that indicates whether two **variables** move together.*
- A. someone who disturbs or annoys
 - B. things that are able to change
 - C. calculating or judging too low
- 20 *In addition to economic and social **disparity** between blacks and whites, Fryer had become intrigued by the virtual segregation of culture.*
- A. result or predictable value
 - B. the highest-ranking manager
 - C. a difference between things

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	innovate	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
2	B	abortion (<i>as in: have an abortion</i>)	Used 89 times in this book.
3	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	factor (<i>as in: factor it into your thinking</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	A	correlate	High-utility academic word; used 51 times in this book.
6	C	economics	High-utility academic word; used 14 times in this book.
7	B	deterrent	Used 8 times in this book.
8	B	algorithm	Used 10 times in this book.
9	A	correspond (<i>as in: corresponding time period</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	correspondent (<i>as in: foreign correspondent of the paper</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	condemn (<i>as in: She condemned their plan</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	condemn (<i>as in: condemned the building</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	A	diverse	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
14	A	urban	Used 7 times in this book.
15	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
16	A	conductive	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	variable	Used 10 times in this book.
20	C	disparity	Used 5 times in this book.