

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

by Julia Alvarez

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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: analysis (2), coax, concur, confide, contradict, coup (2), determine, determined, immigrate, interrogate, lapse (2), preparatory, sonnet, tentative (2), vivacious, yearn



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The police are waiting for an **analysis** of the DNA.
 - A. psychiatric treatment
 - B. sample
 - C. detailed examination
2. Freud's theory of **analysis** emphasized dreams and sexual repression.
 - A. psychiatric treatment
 - B. plot creation
 - C. film-making
3. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
4. She could not bring herself to **concur** publicly, but she honored her promise by not discussing her concerns.
 - A. criticize
 - B. agree
 - C. help
5. She **confided** in her parents.
 - A. trusted
 - B. didn't trust
 - C. was proud
6. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
7. It's the country's third **coup** in twenty years.
 - A. major catastrophe
 - B. seizure of power
 - C. regional war
8. Signing him was a **coup** for our club.
 - A. terrible and notable mistake
 - B. brilliant move gone bad
 - C. brilliant and notable success
9. She is **determined** to find a cure for the disease.
 - A. firmly planning
 - B. hoping
 - C. without hope
10. The number of days of vacation is **determined** by years at the company.
 - A. stubborn
 - B. controlled
 - C. firm in purpose
11. At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - A. relocated
 - B. exported goods
 - C. visited

12. Officers will **interrogate** the witnesses separately to compare their accounts.
- A. question closely
 - B. politely greet
 - C. quietly observe
13. Her job is to assure there is no **lapse** of the high standards at their hotels.
- A. copying
 - B. change
 - C. period of time
14. She allowed her life insurance to **lapse**.
- A. automatically increase
 - B. automatically renew
 - C. end or terminate
15. She took a **preparatory** class before the difficult entrance exam.
- A. helping prepare
 - B. making easier
 - C. causing trouble
16. *Romeo and Juliet* opens with a **sonnet**.
- A. poem of a particular form
 - B. narrator introduction
 - C. moralizing song
17. She took a **tentative** step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident
18. I have a **tentative** plan, but don't want to make any promises until I discuss it with some friends.
- A. action without forethought; or such a tendency
 - B. intended to deceive -- usually for financial gain
 - C. subject to change (likely or possibly going to change)
19. She's a **vivacious** high school senior who has captured the nations heart.
- A. kind and attractive
 - B. engaging and lively
 - C. smart and well-spoken
20. I **yearn** for more independence.
- A. fear
 - B. desire
 - C. work

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 "There have been some incidents lately," Tia Carmen says in a quiet voice that does not brook **contradiction**.
 - A. something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
 - B. something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
 - C. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
- 2 It gave solace to the third daughter, who was always so **tentative** and terrified and had such troubles with men.
 - A. careful or unsure
 - B. not demonstrating
 - C. able to challenge
- 3 Those *tenuous*, **tentative** first life-impressions have scattered like reflections in a pond under the swirling hand of an older brother or sister saying, I remember the day you ate the rat poison, Carlos, or, I remember the day you fell down the stairs...
 - A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. subject to change
- 4 But the **coup** the youngest daughter most wanted was to reconcile with her father in a big way.
 - A. measure of general intelligence
 - B. a firm decision to do something
 - C. notable achievement
- 5 But tonight, as we've agreed, we're staging a **coup** on the same Avenida where a decade ago the dictator was cornered and wounded on his way to a tryst with his mistress.
 - A. tile designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - B. a sudden overthrow of a government by use of limited force
 - C. an important Christian ceremony such as baptism or communion
- 6 Carla, of course, knew the story well, and had analyzed it for unresolved childhood issues with her **analyst** husband.
 - A. psychiatrist
 - B. disagreement
 - C. stone coffin
- 7 She had read in a handwriting **analysis** book that this was the style of the self-assured.
 - A. the state or character of being absolutely sure of something
 - B. to again think carefully and make a judgment about something
 - C. understanding based upon examination
- 8 She is **determined** to get over this allergy.
 - A. firm in purpose
 - B. careful thought
 - C. starts (a fire)
- 9 In the close quarters of an American nuclear family, their mother's prodigious energy was becoming a real drain on their self-**determination**.
 - A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - B. the process of controlling how something turns out
 - C. a tiny germ that causes disease by taking over cells
- 10 Rudy would **concur**, "Me too," but then, he wouldn't move from his place at the foot of my bed next to my desk where I sat writing.
 - A. trade
 - B. agree
 - C. adapt

- 11 *Our next workshop, no one understood what my sublimated love **sonnet** was all about, but Rudy's brought down the house.*
- A. a poem consisting of 14 lines with a fixed rhyme scheme
 - B. the act or process of stopping something from happening
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
- 12 *For the hundredth time, I cursed my **immigrant** origins.*
- A. person who came from another country to live
 - B. something accepted as true (without proof)
 - C. relating to properties of sound or hearing
- 13 *Instead, I did something that even as a **lapsed** Catholic I still did for good luck on nights before exams.*
- A. excessively excited
 - B. nervous or confused
 - C. no longer practicing
- 14 *I guessed I'd resolved the soul and sin thing by **lapsing** from my heavy-duty Catholic background, giving up my immortal soul for a blues kind of soul.*
- A. drawing pictures to accompany
 - B. changing
 - C. overly unhappy and unsociable
- 15 *His bad boy always drove me to my **vivacious** good girl.*
- A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 - B. having an engaging liveliness -- when said of a person, typically said of a female
 - C. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument
- 16 *It was a long train ride up to our **prep** school in Boston, and there were guys on that train.*
- A. preceding and preparing for something
 - B. injured muscles or tendons (despite calling it muscle)
 - C. the idea that anything that can go wrong will go wrong
- 17 *Carla thought **yearningly** of the lush grasses and thick-limbed, vine-laden trees around the compound back home.*
- A. in a sloped manner
 - B. with strong desire
 - C. in a hidden manner
- 18 *The **interrogation** proceeded through a description of the man's appearance, and then the dreaded question came.*
- A. questioned in an aggressive manner
 - B. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
 - C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 19 *Their high voices squealing with delight when Carla mispronounced some word they **coaxed** her to repeat.*
- A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
 - B. tried to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuaded
 - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty
- 20 *"The girls are having such fun," she heard her mother **confide** to Mrs. Fanning.*
- A. place trust (in someone) and talk about private things
 - B. aka analyze -- analyze based upon a theory of psychiatry
 - C. search for and discover through persistent investigation

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	tentative (<i>as in: a tentative plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	coup (<i>as in: a financial coup</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	coup (<i>as in: deposed in the coup</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	analysis (<i>as in: psychiatrist suggested analysis</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	analysis (<i>as in: analysis of relevant data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	determined (<i>as in: is determined to succeed</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	B	determine (<i>as in: this game determines the champion</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	concur (<i>as in: I concur</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
11	A	sonnet	Used 7 times in this book.
12	A	immigrate	Used 6 times in this book.
13	C	lapse (<i>as in: allowed the policy to lapse</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	lapse (<i>as in: a lapse in judgement</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	vivacious	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	preparatory	Used 7 times in this book.
17	B	yearn	Used 6 times in this book.
18	A	interrogate	Used 6 times in this book.
19	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
20	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.