

Into Thin Air

by Jon Krakauer

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: approximate, ascend, caustic (2), competent, complement (2), crucial, engage (2), environment (2), establish (2), hypothermia, moreover, precede, pulmonary, subsequent, with a vengeance



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	B
10	C
11	C
12	A
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	B
17	C
18	B
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. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
2. He watched the hot-air balloon **ascend** slowly into the clear morning sky.
 - A. move upward
 - B. drift downward
 - C. spin in place
3. Be careful. The chemical is **caustic**.
 - A. dangerously cold
 - B. very sticky
 - C. corrosive or damaging
4. I always enjoy her remarks, though they can be a bit **caustic**.
 - A. sarcastic or harsh
 - B. hard to understand
 - C. depressing or sad
5. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
6. The color **complements** her eyes.
 - A. combines well with
 - B. says nice things about
 - C. matches in color
7. The jet was loaded with a full **complement** of weaponry.
 - A. highly praised
 - B. a quantity of something that is considered complete
 - C. very heavy
8. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
9. At the time, she was **engaged** in a research project at Stanford.
 - A. a candidate
 - B. involved
 - C. promised to marry
10. I pulled the lever to **engage** the gears.
 - A. speed
 - B. release
 - C. put to work
11. Her lecture is on energy and the **environment**.
 - A. global warming
 - B. rising sea levels
 - C. natural world
12. We create a supportive **environment** where it's safe to take chances.
 - A. setting
 - B. help desk
 - C. insurance policy

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. After hours in the icy water, she showed signs of hypothermia.
- A. dangerously low body heat
 - B. severe hunger
 - C. temporary blindness
16. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
17. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
18. Spirometry (measuring breathing capacity) is the most common of the pulmonary function tests.
- A. relating to the skin
 - B. relating to the lungs
 - C. relating to the bones
19. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a subsequent investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
20. She threw herself into work with a vengeance.
- A. with reluctance
 - B. with intensity
 - C. with careful thought

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 **Moreover**, I agree that readers are often poorly served when an author writes as an act of catharsis, as I have done here.
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 2 A decade later, however, a **subsequent** ascent of the mountain helped establish the trajectory of my life.
 - A. able to take on or adopt
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. following something else
- 3 Their best hope for getting off the mountain alive, they concluded, was to go over the top and down the well-**established** Southeast Ridge route, an extremely audacious plan, given the late hour, the unknown terrain, and their rapidly diminishing supply of bottled oxygen.
 - 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
- 4 It had been **established** in 1973 after four members of a single Japanese trekking group succumbed to the altitude and died in the vicinity.
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. created
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 5 I dreamed of **ascending** Everest myself one day;
 - A. climbing up
 - B. influencing or effecting
 - C. beginning to fight again
- 6 The government of Nepal recognized that the throngs flocking to Everest created serious problems in terms of safety, aesthetics, and impact to the **environment**.
 - A. happiness and joy
 - B. lacking excellence
 - C. the natural world
- 7 "I don't want to carry the telephone," Lopsang later admitted, in part because it worked only marginally at Camp Three and it seemed even less likely to work in the colder, harsher **environment** of Camp Four.
 - A. surrounding conditions
 - B. way of doing something
 - C. not easily set on fire
- 8 **Inept** or **disreputable** companies have on more than one occasion failed to deliver **crucial** logistical support--oxygen, for instance--as promised.
 - A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 9 Everest had killed more than 130 people since the British first visited the mountain in 1921--**approximately** one death for every four climbers who'd reached the summit--and that many of those who died had been far stronger and possessed vastly more high-altitude experience than I.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. cheerfully and friendly
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 10 Gregarious by nature, Hall proved to be a skillful raconteur with a **caustic** Kiwi wit.
 - A. sarcastic
 - B. not mirroring back (an image)
 - C. in the way mentioned or shown

- 11 *This morning, gasping lungfuls of **caustic**, snow-filled air, he had apparently frozen his larynx.*
A. easily set on fire
B. untied or released
C. harsh or damaging
- 12 *Lou, **hampered** by a leg muscle he'd injured on the first morning of the trek to Base Camp, was slow but **competent**.*
A. sincerity (realness)
B. sufficiently capable
C. sensible and careful
- 13 *The reputations of the Taiwanese **preceded** them to Everest.*
A. wrongly understood
B. influenced opinion
C. went or was before
- 14 *He has one of the worst cases of **pulmonary** edema I've ever seen.*
A. degree to which things are related
B. relating to or affecting the lungs
C. able to be understood or explained
- 15 *Fond of costumes, Sandy appeared wearing a high-altitude climbing suit over her evening dress, **complemented** by mountaineering boots, crampons, ice ax, and a bandolier of carabiners.*
A. made better
B. did in a particular way
C. created dramatic change
- 16 *There were fifteen of us in Hall's group: three guides, a full **complement** of eight clients, and Sherpas Ang Dorje, Lhakpa Chhiri, Ngawang Norbu, and Kami.*
A. the state or characteristic of being less than zero
B. a quantity of something that is considered complete
C. power plants that produce energy by splitting atoms
- 17 *Most of us were simply wrapped too tightly in the grip of summit fever to **engage** in thoughtful reflection about the death of someone in our midst.*
A. accept as true (without proof)
B. participate (take part)
C. show, determine, or understand
- 18 *Andy's encounter with the falling rock was very much on my mind every time I unclipped from the line to move around somebody even a small projectile would be enough to send me to the bottom of the face if it struck while I was **disengaged** from the rope.*
A. with an unadjusted lens so the image isn't clear
B. gave an opinion of what was wrong with something
C. not connected
- 19 *He was so **hypothermic** he could barely talk.*
A. relating to body temperature that is dangerously low
B. the quality of being able to get closer to something
C. the state or degree of being optimistic or agreeable
- 20 *Four of my teammates died not so much because Rob Hall's systems were faulty-indeed, nobody's were better-but because on Everest it is the nature of systems to break down **with a vengeance**.*
A. due to complexity
B. with intensity
C. because of human error

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
2	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
3	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	ascend (<i>as in: ascend the mountain</i>)	Used 57 times in this book.
6	C	environment (<i>as in: the environmental movement</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	environment (<i>as in: her family environment</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
8	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
9	C	approximate	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
10	A	caustic (<i>as in: a caustic person</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	caustic (<i>as in: a caustic chemical</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
13	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
14	B	pulmonary	Used 6 times in this book.
15	A	complement (<i>as in: the color complements her eyes</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	complement (<i>as in: a full complement of crew</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	engage (<i>as in: engage in conversation</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	engage (<i>as in: engage the gears</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	A	hypothermia	Used 7 times in this book.
20	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.