

Major Barbara

by George Bernard Shaw

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

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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: allude, amiable, complacent, conscience, conviction, cunning, cynical, drivel, dubious, enable, impetuous, indifferent, indignant, infer, malice, obsolete, obstinate, remonstrate, scoundrel, vehement



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	A
13	A
14	B
15	C
16	A
17	B
18	B
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. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
2. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
3. This team could win State if they stay hungry instead of getting too **complacent**.
 - A. worried
 - B. distracted
 - C. satisfied
4. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
 - A. sense of right and wrong
 - B. memory of past events
 - C. fear of public ridicule
5. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
6. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
7. Over the years, she has grown **cynical** and unhappy.
 - A. distrustful of others
 - B. trusting of strangers
 - C. envious of friends
8. After reading the article, she dismissed it as pure **drivel** with no real evidence.
 - A. science
 - B. nonsense
 - C. opinion
9. She gave a **dubious** look when he claimed to have met the president.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. polite
 - C. joyful
10. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
11. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy

12. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
- A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
13. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
14. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
- A. different
 - B. figured out
 - C. converted
15. Words can be like baseball bats when used maliciously against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
16. That old phone is **obsolete**.
- A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
17. He is **obstinate** as a mule and refuses to change his mind.
- A. cheerful
 - B. stubborn
 - C. graceful
18. The lawyers will **remonstrate** that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
 - B. protest
 - C. explain
19. He is the most intolerable **scoundrel** on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning
20. The politician's **vehement** speech stirred up strong emotions in the crowd.
- A. calm and composed
 - B. forceful or intense
 - C. highly convincing

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 LADY BRITOMART [**complacently**] *Yes; I have made a very good match for Sarah.*
 - A. in a manner that relates to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. in a manner that causes great mental or physical suffering
 - C. with satisfaction or contentment (unworried and satisfied)
- 2 LADY BRITOMART [**rather taken aback by this inference**] *Oh no. To do Andrew justice, that was not the sort of thing he did.*
 - A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. conclusion (reached by reasoning)
 - C. purpose, job, or natural activity
- 3 STEPHEN [**dubiously**] *I am afraid I should make a poor hand of managing a cannon foundry.*
 - A. doubtfully or suspiciously
 - B. not capable of being found
 - C. not in a self-aware manner
- 4 STEPHEN [**obstinately**] *I would die sooner than ask him for another penny.*
 - A. in an artificial manner to make an impression
 - B. stubbornly unyielding to the wishes of others
 - C. to almost be so, but not so strictly speaking
- 5 LOMAX [**remonstrating**] *Oh I say!*
 - A. selecting (on a computer screen)
 - B. arguing in protest or opposition
 - C. developing or changing gradually
- 6 LADY BRITOMART [**vehemently**] *I did, Charles.*
 - A. the manner in which things have generally been done in the past
 - B. marked by extreme intensity -- especially emotion such as anger
 - C. in a manner that shows a lack of integrity and money motivation
- 7 *I find myself in a specially **amiable** humor just now because, this morning, down at the foundry, we blew twenty-seven dummy soldiers into fragments with a gun which formerly destroyed only thirteen.*
 - A. friendly, agreeable, and likable
 - B. important, serious, or dangerous
 - C. not clear or easily identifiable
- 8 *In other words, some men are honest and some are **scoundrels**.*
 - A. people without moral principles
 - B. indications or small quantities
 - C. other battles with the same foe
- 9 RUMMY [**running indignantly to him to scold him**].
 - A. with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 10 [**Suddenly turning on her with intense malice**] *And if I don't find Mog there, I'll come back and do two years for you, selp me Gawd if I don't*
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 11 [**He sits down again, and stretches his legs in an attempt to seem indifferent**]
 - A. without interest
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found

- 12 Wot I done to er is not on me mawnd—wot she [indicating Barbara] might call on me **conscience**—no more than stickin a pig.
- A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
 - B. a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
 - C. not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion
- 13 BILL [cynically, aside to Barbara, his voice and accent horribly debased] Wot prawce Selvytion nah?
- A. someone who expects the worst -- especially of people (such as expecting them to be selfish and lie)
 - B. while taking pains to avoid being observed; or in a nervous manner (as though hoping not to be seen)
 - C. in a manner that provokes, excites, or stimulates -- especially controversy, sexual desire, or anger
- 14 It **enables** Parliament to do things at eleven at night that no sane person would do at eleven in the morning.
- A. stops fighting
 - B. makes possible
 - C. leaps or jumps
- 15 CUSINS [returning **impetuously** from the shelter with a flag and a trombone, and coming between Mrs Baines and Undershaft] You shall carry the flag down the first street, Mrs Baines [he gives her the flag].
- A. impulsively (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. in the manner of a logical, systematic examination
 - C. in a manner that shows care or concern for someone
- 16 He only sat there and completed the wreck of my moral basis, the rout of my **convictions**, the purchase of my soul.
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 17 CUSINS [disingenuously] Well—er—well, possibly, as a collector of religions— LOMAX [cunningly] Not as a drummer, though, you know.
- A. aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
 - B. in a manner that is clever and typically that includes tricking others
 - C. in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 18 Charles: if you must **drivel**, drivell like a grown-up man and not like a schoolboy.
- A. not recognizable as different
 - B. worthless talk or information
 - C. not mirroring back (an image)
- 19 The cannon is mounted on an experimental gun carriage: possibly the original model of the Undershaft disappearing rampart gun **alluded** to by Stephen.
- A. marked important text
 - B. indirectly referenced
 - C. gained advantage from
- 20 It scraps its **obsolete** steam engines and dynamos; but it won't scrap its old prejudices and its old moralities and its old religions and its old political constitutions.
- A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	complacent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
2	B	infer	High-utility academic word
3	A	dubious	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
4	B	obstinate	Used 4 times in this play.
5	B	remonstrate	Used 5 times in this play.
6	B	vehement	Used 3 times in this play.
7	A	amiable	Used 4 times in this play.
8	A	scoundrel	Used 4 times in this play.
9	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
10	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
11	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
12	A	conscience	Used 11 times in this play.
13	A	cynical	Used 3 times in this play.
14	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
15	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
16	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
17	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
18	B	drivel (<i>as in: talking drivel</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.
19	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
20	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.