

Mrs. Warren's Profession

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: apprehensive, censor, clamor, complacent, conform, contrast, convention, cordial, cunning, disparage, flippancy, opera, remonstrate, reproach, repudiate, scrupulous, slovenly, sulk, trifle, trifle with



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
Mrs. Warren's Profession

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She is **apprehensive** about finals.
A. talkative
B. worried
C. unconcerned
2. The performer chose *Bombay* as a good word to rhyme with *today*, but India's Central Board of Film Certification censored the word and replaced it with a beep.
A. improved
B. reinforced
C. removed
3. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
A. demands
B. insults
C. whining
4. This team could win State if they stay hungry instead of getting too **complacent**.
A. worried
B. distracted
C. satisfied
5. The Asche experiment showed the influence of the desire to **conform**.
A. fit in
B. have independence
C. be honorable
6. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
A. notable similarity
B. covering of all styles
C. notable difference
7. In most countries, the **convention** is to shake the head to indicate "no", but in Bulgaria that indicates "yes".
A. movement
B. agreement
C. normal behavior
8. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
A. in a hurried manner
B. in a friendly manner
C. in a clumsy manner
9. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning**, and without morals.
A. stupid and impatient
B. clever and deceitful
C. strong and cruel
10. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
A. criticize
B. defeat
C. erase from history
11. Her **flippant** joke during the serious meeting upset the group.
A. deeply respectful
B. not properly serious
C. carefully researched

12. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
13. The lawyers will **remonstrate** that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
 - B. protest
 - C. explain
14. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
15. The election results were a clear **repudiation** of the incumbent's policies.
- A. approval
 - B. rejection
 - C. explanation
16. Lenders trust her as a **scrupulous** property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
 - B. honest and careful
 - C. loud and rude
17. The restaurant was shut down due to its **slovenly** kitchen conditions.
- A. dirty
 - B. costly
 - C. inefficient
18. She **sulked** for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
- A. worked tirelessly to improve
 - B. was unhappy and unsociable
 - C. was angry and lashed out
19. Don't waste my time with **trifling** matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
20. The European Parliament refuses to be **trifled** with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with

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 *Even the Ibsen champions of ten years ago remonstrate with me just as the veterans of those brave days **remonstrated** with them.*
 - A. selected (on a computer screen)
 - B. argued in protest or opposition
 - C. took up or received into heaven
- 2 *If he made his play false to life by inventing fictitious disadvantages for her, he would be acting as **unscrupulously** as any tract writer.*
 - A. not clearly
 - B. unethically
 - C. importantly
- 3 *The managers of our London music-halls are not subject to any **censorship**.*
 - A. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - B. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - C. the act of removing or suppressing anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
- 4 *The attempt to produce a genus of **opera** without music (and this absurdity is what our fashionable theatres have been driving at for a long time without knowing it) is far less hopeful than my own determination to accept problem as the normal materiel of the drama.*
 - A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 5 *I declare that the real secret of the cynicism and inhumanity of which shallower critics accuse me is the unexpectedness with which my characters behave like human beings, instead of **conforming** to the romantic logic of the stage.*
 - A. complying, fitting in, or being similar to what is normal
 - B. understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - C. making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
- 6 *My old Independent Theatre manager, Mr Grein, besides that **reproach** to me for shattering his ideals, complains that Mrs Warren is not wicked enough, and names several romancers who would have clothed her black soul with all the terrors of tragedy.*
 - A. move into position to work; or start
 - B. a criticism; or to express criticism
 - C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 7 *Here again the **clamor** for naturalness and human feeling, raised by so many critics when they are confronted by the real thing on the stage, is really a clamor for the most mechanical and superficial sort of logic.*
 - A. loud noise and/or persistent demands
 - B. move into position to work; or start
 - C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 8 *The dramatic reason for making the clergyman what Mrs Warren calls "an old stick-in-the-mud," whose son, in spite of much capacity and charm, is a cynically worthless member of society, is to set up a mordant **contrast** between him and the woman of infamous profession, with her well brought-up, straightforward, hardworking daughter.*
 - A. come to terms with
 - B. block or interfere
 - C. notable difference

- 9 They might as well ask what good Lord Shaftesbury did by devoting his life to the exposure of evils (by no means yet remedied) compared to which the worst things brought into view or even into surmise by this play are **trifles**.
- struggles or disagreements
 - is attractive or desirable
 - things of small importance
- 10 VIVIE [*ruthlessly*] Yes, without a moment's hesitation, if you **trifle with me** about this.
- treat thoughtlessly or without respect
 - beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - injured muscles or tendons of the back
- 11 The most vicious man in the play is not in the least a stage villain; indeed, he regards his own moral character with the sincere **complacency** of a hero of melodrama.
- dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - a range of things between two boundaries
 - contentment (often unworried to a fault)
- 12 PRAED [*rising in a frenzy of repudiation*] I don't believe it.
- risky investment
 - strong rejection
 - chaotic disorder
- 13 [*Frank comes in and shakes hands cordially*]
- in a pleasing way
 - in a friendly way
 - in a skillful way
- 14 I advised you to conquer your idleness and **flippancy**, and to work your way into an honorable profession and live on it and not upon me.
- lacking experience or sophistication
 - an inappropriate lack of seriousness
 - a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 15 [*He looks round apprehensively* Seeing no one within earshot he plucks up courage to boom again, but more subduedly]
- in a manner that does not change
 - worried over possible misfortune
 - in a manner that deserves praise
- 16 It isn't the thing: it's **slovenly**, ever so slovenly.
- messy or dirty;
- or:
- excessively careless or casual
 - the quality of being very bad (deserving no respect)
 - the state or degree of being optimistic or agreeable
- 17 He grins; leans forward with his elbows on his knees to prod with his stick at some unfortunate insect in the grass; and looks **cunningly** at her.
- aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
 - in a manner that is clever and typically that includes tricking others
 - in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 18 FRANK [*looking round disparagingly*] Do you intend to stick in this confounded place?
- with criticism or in a manner that makes something seem less important
 - aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
 - in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 19 You are a **conventional** woman at heart.
- complete or total
 - able to challenge
 - typical
- 20 MRS WARREN [*sulkily*] Oh well, yes, if you come to that, I suppose you are.
- in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
 - in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - in a manner that is not intense, or less active

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	remonstrate	Used 7 times in this play.
2	B	scrupulous	Used 6 times in this play.
3	C	censor (<i>as related to censorship</i>)	Used 26 times in this play.
4	A	opera	Used 5 times in this play.
5	A	conform	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
6	B	reproach	Used 3 times in this play.
7	A	clamor	Used 4 times in this play.
8	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
9	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
10	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
11	C	complacent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
12	B	repudiate	Used 2 times in this play.
13	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
14	B	flippant	Used 2 times in this play.
15	B	apprehensive	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
16	A	slovenly	Used 2 times in this play.
17	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
18	A	disparage	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
19	C	convention (<i>as in: conventional behavior</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 17 times in this play.
20	B	sulk	Used 5 times in this play.