

# Of the Meaning of Progress

by W. E. B. DuBois

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.  
Review before use, or edit the DOCX from 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.

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#### 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:** affectation, bravado, deft, dwindle, earnest, gaunt, haughty, indifferent, jaunty, jovial, listless, paradox, recollect, relentless, revere, scarcity, scrupulous, strife, vulgar, wistful



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### Of the Meaning of Progress

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

# Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. His British accent turned out to be an **affectation** he picked up in college.
  - A. honest trait
  - B. fake mannerism
  - C. old hobby
2. His confident speech was mostly **bravado**; he was nervous before the debate.
  - A. quiet act of kindness
  - B. false show of courage
  - C. careful use of facts
3. She chopped the vegetables with **deft**, sure movements.
  - A. quick & skillful
  - B. small and firm
  - C. rotating
4. As winter continued, the family's supply of firewood began to **dwindle**.
  - A. suddenly improve
  - B. remain unchanged
  - C. gradually decrease
5. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
  - A. frivolous attitude
  - B. seriousness
  - C. falseness
6. Don Quixote looked **gaunt** and tired.
  - A. very worried
  - B. very thin
  - C. very bored
7. She has that **haughty**, rich and entitled attitude.
  - A. wealthy
  - B. arrogant
  - C. optimistic
8. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
  - A. without interest
  - B. with fear
  - C. with anger
9. He walked down the street with a **jaunty** stride, whistling a tune.
  - A. slow and weary
  - B. lively and cheerful
  - C. stiff and formal
10. She is a **joyful** old woman.
  - A. impossible to understand
  - B. cheerful and friendly
  - C. very noticeable
11. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
  - A. unenergetic
  - B. frustrated
  - C. lonely
12. Her life was a **paradox**: she was both incredibly private and a bestselling memoirist.
  - A. something that seems self-contradictory
  - B. something that went as expected
  - C. something that is too short

13. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
  - B. spell properly
  - C. remember
14. Her parents criticize her relentlessly.
- A. subtly (in a non-obvious way)
  - B. constantly and oppressively
  - C. with an excessive sense of superiority
15. She reveres nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
  - B. deeply respects
  - C. thoroughly enjoys
16. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
  - B. extremely hard
  - C. in short supply
17. Lenders trust her as a scrupulous property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
  - B. honest and careful
  - C. loud and rude
18. Civil strife tore the country apart for nearly a decade before reform began.
- A. joyful celebration
  - B. violent conflict
  - C. quiet agreement
19. His vulgar jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
  - B. crude
  - C. clever
20. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
  - B. showing determination
  - C. showing optimism

# Vocabulary in Context

## Of the Meaning of Progress

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 I feel the deep weariness of heart and limb as ten, eight, six miles stretch **relentlessly** ahead;
  - A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
  - B. in an extreme manner that does not stop
  - C. enthusiastically or with great interest
- 2 The **gaunt** farmer made me welcome, and Josie, hearing my errand, told me anxiously that they wanted a school over the hill; that but once since the war had a teacher been there; that she herself longed to learn,—and thus she ran on, talking fast and loud, with much earnestness and energy.
  - A. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - B. very thin and bony -- often from hunger or as though having been worn to the bone
  - C. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 3 The **gaunt** farmer made me welcome, and Josie, hearing my errand, told me anxiously that they wanted a school over the hill; that but once since the war had a teacher been there; that she herself longed to learn,—and thus she ran on, talking fast and loud, with much **earnestness** and energy.
  - A. the state of being awake
  - B. sincerity or seriousness
  - C. able to take on or adopt
- 4 The father was a quiet, simple soul, calmly ignorant, with no touch of **vulgarity**.
  - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
  - B. bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
  - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 5 There was with them no **affectation**.
  - A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
  - B. behaving in an artificial way to make an impression
  - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 6 Furniture was **scarce**.
  - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
  - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
  - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 7 There were the Burkes,—two brown and yellow lads, and a tiny **haughty-eyed** girl.
  - A. absolute
  - B. arrogant
  - C. pleasing
- 8 At times the school would **dwindle** away, and I would start out.
  - A. indicating criticism or disagreement, or "no"
  - B. to be most powerful, important, or noticeable
  - C. to gradually become smaller, fewer, or weaker
- 9 The front room was full of great fat white beds, **scrupulously** neat; and there were bad chromos on the walls, and a tired centre-table.
  - A. in a manner that does not change
  - B. ethically; or carefully diligent
  - C. in a manner that deserves praise
- 10 At first I used to be a little alarmed at the approach of bedtime in the one lone bedroom, but embarrassment was very **deftly** avoided.
  - A. quick and skillful
  - B. with strong desire
  - C. in a sloped manner
- 11 The girls looked at the hill in **wistful** longing, and the boys fretted and haunted Alexandria.
  - A. showing longing or unfulfilled desire
  - B. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - C. able to be restored to good condition

- 12 *The mass of those to whom slavery was a dim **recollection** of childhood found the world a puzzling thing: it asked little of them, and they answered with little, and yet it ridiculed their offering.*
- A. battle
  - B. result
  - C. memory
- 13 *Such a **paradox** they could not understand, and therefore sank into listless indifference, or shiftlessness, or reckless bravado.*
- A. a situation or statement that seems to contradict itself but may still be true
  - B. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
  - C. a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean
- 14 *Such a **paradox** they could not understand, and therefore sank into **listless** indifference, or shiftlessness, or reckless bravado.*
- A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
  - B. lacking a reason for doing something
  - C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 15 *Such a **paradox** they could not understand, and therefore sank into listless **indifference**, or shiftlessness, or reckless bravado.*
- A. without interest
  - B. risky investment
  - C. chaotic disorder
- 16 *Such a **paradox** they could not understand, and therefore sank into listless indifference, or shiftlessness, or reckless **bravado**.*
- A. related to or causing dramatic change; of a supporter of the change
  - B. a bold manner or show of bravery -- often hiding fear or insecurity
  - C. a basic building block of matter that makes up protons and neutrons
- 17 *The crazy foundation stones still marked the former site of my poor little cabin, and not far away, on six weary boulders, perched a **jaunty** board house, perhaps twenty by thirty feet, with three windows and a door that locked.*
- A. with the involvement of other people or things
  - B. appearing cheerful, lively, and self-confident
  - C. the state or degree of being greater than zero
- 18 *I peeped through the window half **reverently**, and found things that were more familiar.*
- A. in a manner that is not appropriate or different than would be expected in size, amount, or degree
  - B. with feelings of deep respect and admiration -- sometimes with a mixture of wonder and awe or fear
  - C. with nervousness or discomfort felt by someone due to concern about what others will think of them
- 19 *She had driven her husband away, and while I taught school a strange man lived there, big and **joyial**, and people talked.*
- A. not easily identified
  - B. cheerful and friendly
  - C. able to be translated
- 20 *And all this life and love and **strife** and failure—is it the twilight of nightfall or the flush of some faint-dawning day?*
- A. thing that affects a result or outcome
  - B. violent conflict or angry disagreement
  - C. job, reservation, booking, or activity

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	relentless	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	gaunt	Used 2 times in this essay.
3	B	earnest	High-utility academic word
4	B	vulgar	Used 2 times in this essay.
5	B	affectation	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
6	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word
7	B	haughty	High-utility academic word
8	C	dwindle	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	scrupulous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	A	deft	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	wistful	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	recollect	High-utility academic word
13	A	paradox	High-utility academic word
14	A	listless	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word
16	B	bravado	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	jaunty	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	revere	High-utility academic word
19	B	jovial	Used 2 times in this essay.
20	B	strife	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.

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