

On the Beach

by Nevil Shute

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: allocate, anteroom, competent, conscientious, consternation, detach, diffident, dispose, harrowing, immune, indignant, infinite, inhibited, longitude, nonchalant, nucleus, perish, relinquish, scarcity, wry



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	B
16	C
17	B
18	A
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. Let's think about how to best **allocate** time and resources.
 - A. decide on a minimum amount of
 - B. ration (distribute according to a plan)
 - C. decide on a maximum amount of
2. She kept me waiting an hour in the **anteroom** for my long-scheduled ten-minute appointment.
 - A. the residence of a religious community
 - B. a room leading to a larger or more important room
 - C. a house or shelter in which someone lives
3. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
4. I try to hire employees who are **conscientious**.
 - A. smart
 - B. attractive
 - C. careful
5. She is a natural athlete, but to the coach's **consternation**, she tends to forget the play in the heat of the moment.
 - A. prediction
 - B. dismay
 - C. blame
6. These days, she seems emotionally **detached** whenever she talks about him.
 - A. separated
 - B. connected
 - C. heightened
7. She is so **diffident**; I can't imagine her as president of the organization.
 - A. young
 - B. unassertive
 - C. argumentative
8. You have a tight deadline, but the entire company is at your **disposal**.
 - A. command
 - B. mercy
 - C. office
9. The story is especially **harrowing** because it could have happened to any of us.
 - A. frightening
 - B. instructive
 - C. realistic
10. She is **immune** to chickenpox because she has been vaccinated.
 - A. at risk
 - B. resistant
 - C. open
11. 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

12. The night sky seemed infinite as we gazed at countless stars.
- A. blurry
 - B. silent
 - C. endless
13. He was too inhibited to dance at parties, even when everyone else joined in.
- A. wild and uncontrolled
 - B. shy and self-conscious
 - C. loud and confident
14. For a long time, sailors could not accurately determine longitude at sea.
- A. depth of water
 - B. east-west position
 - C. distance to shore
15. How could she be so nonchalant about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
16. The small reading group became the nucleus of a schoolwide book club.
- A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
17. We can work together or perish separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
18. I am relinquishing my bedroom to our house guest
- A. giving up
 - B. showing
 - C. preventing entry to
19. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
20. Her wry comment made the bad news sound almost funny.
- A. openly cheerful
 - B. dryly humorous
 - C. deeply serious

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 *They may be a bit **scarce** now.*
 - 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)
- 2 *"Seven it is," said the captain **nonchalantly**.*
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. calmly (appearing unconcerned)
 - C. in a manner that does not stop
- 3 *He's very **competent**.*
 - A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 4 *She stared at him in **consternation**.*
 - A. related to the smallest part of any material that cannot be broken up by chemical means
 - B. dismay (unhappiness, worry, and often confusion) -- typically over something unexpected
 - C. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
- 5 *"Mrs. Holmes," he said a little **diffidently**.*
 - A. following as a result of something
 - B. with hesitancy and unassertiveness
 - C. indiscriminately (non-selectively)
- 6 *I put him in the wardroom and got the duty officer to **allocate** a cabin for him for tonight.*
 - A. indicating criticism or disagreement, or "no"
 - B. distribute or set apart for a special purpose
 - C. move to a worse or less prestigious situation
- 7 *She lunched with the Americans at the end of one of the long tables, and took coffee with them in the **anteroom**.*
 - A. island (that is made of a coral reef)
 - B. a room leading to a larger or more important room
 - C. dense, rainy forest with many species
- 8 *He managed to **detach** her from the hotel after her second drink, and they walked to the station in the evening light.*
 - A. to separate something from something else (physically or emotionally)
 - B. a way of doing something; or a route that leads to a particular place
 - C. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
- 9 *The general effect was one of boisterous and **uninhibited** lightheartedness, more in the style of 1890 than of 1963.*
 - A. the process of excessive encouragement or excitement
 - B. acting naturally without being overly self-conscious
 - C. the ability to take or adopt power or responsibility
- 10 *Sometimes I drive a bullock round the farm at home, **harrowing** the muck.*
 - A. frightening or unsettling
 - B. able to be disagreed with
 - C. not tending to find fault
- 11 *John Osborne smiled **wryly**.*
 - A. adequately (in a manner that provides enough -- often without being more than is needed)
 - B. humor -- often understated, sarcastic, or ironic -- often expressed by twisting the face
 - C. in a manner that relates to questions that cannot be answered with the scientific method
- 12 *After all, if he commands a **nuclear**-powered submarine he ought to be able to learn to shovel silage.*
 - A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - C. relating to the central or most important part of something

- 13 *On the surface along latitude thirty, north of New Zealand, south of Pitcairn, till we pick up **longitude** one-twenty.*
- A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. a measure of east/west (relative to the Prime Meridian) on the earth
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 14 *Apart from that, she is the only long-range vessel left at our **disposal** for communication with South America and with South Africa.*
- A. command
 - B. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 15 *After all, if an **infinite** number of monkeys start playing with an infinite number of typewriters, one of them will write a play of Shakespeare.*
- A. power or responsibility that can be taken on or adopted
 - B. the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - C. unlimited; without boundaries; or too numerous to count
- 16 *"Shopping!" she said **indignantly**.*
- A. with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 17 *As they approached more populous districts there were always one or two men waiting to look through the periscope as soon as the officers **relinquished** it.*
- A. gave up or let go
 - B. helped make clear
 - C. thought carefully
- 18 *It's **perishing** cold up there.*
- A. protecting something or keeping it as it is
 - B. dying or being destroyed; or extremely cold
 - C. compensating for a loss; or paying a reward
- 19 *I've never met anyone so **conscientious**.*
- A. not attractive or desirable
 - B. orbiting Earth once per day
 - C. careful to do what is right
- 20 *We wouldn't be **immune**.*
- A. the state or character of having found a condition or substance to be present
 - B. not in danger of suffering from something OR relating to disease resistance
 - C. a health indicator measured by the force of circulating blood on the arteries

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	consternation	Used 3 times in this book.
5	B	diffident	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	allocate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	B	anteroom	Used 4 times in this book.
8	A	detach	Used 8 times in this book.
9	B	inhibited (<i>as in: she is shy and inhibited</i>)	High-utility academic word
10	A	harrowing (<i>as in: a harrowing story</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
11	B	wry	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	nucleus	Used 8 times in this book.
13	B	longitude	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	dispose (<i>as in: disposed the troops along...</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	C	infinite	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	A	relinquish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	conscientious	Used 3 times in this book.
20	B	immune	Used 3 times in this book.