

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

by Ken Kesey

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: analogy, chronic, diagnose, dominate, fidget, imply, impregnable, inclined, induce, jargon, liable, limber, monopoly, motive, ornery, reminisce, shrewd, strenuous, swagger, taut



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. An **analogy** can make a complex problem seem simpler by comparing it to a similar situation.
 - A. comparison of similar things
 - B. summary of key arguments
 - C. list of opposite traits
2. His **chronic** back pain made it hard to sit at a desk all day.
 - A. long-lasting
 - B. brand new
 - C. easily cured
3. What was her **diagnosis**?
 - A. identification of an illness
 - B. treatment for the illness
 - C. major symptom
4. She completely **dominates** her boyfriend.
 - A. worships
 - B. obeys
 - C. controls
5. She **fidged** like a child caught in a lie.
 - A. moved restlessly
 - B. was embarrassed
 - C. cried
6. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
7. It was thought to be an **impregnable** fortress.
 - A. able to withstand attack
 - B. susceptible to attack
 - C. lacking strong defenses
8. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
9. The doctor intentionally **induced** a coma.
 - A. ended
 - B. caused
 - C. prolonged
10. The legal **jargon** in the contract was so complex that the client had to hire a lawyer to interpret it.
 - A. special vocabulary
 - B. complex ideas
 - C. underlying philosophy
11. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
 - A. the state or degree of being less than zero
 - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - C. likely
12. Stretching every morning keeps her **limber** enough to do the splits.
 - A. stiff and sore
 - B. flexible and loose
 - C. weak and tired

13. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
- A. minor stake
 - B. shared market
 - C. complete control
14. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
15. He is too **ornery** to celebrate his birthday.
- A. bad-tempered
 - B. old
 - C. ill
16. The reunion gave everyone a chance to **reminisce** and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
17. She watched him with a **shrewd** eye.
- A. nearby
 - B. outside
 - C. smart
18. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
19. The cowboy **swaggered** into the saloon with his holster unstrapped.
- A. limped with difficulty
 - B. walked confidently
 - C. snuck
20. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy

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 *Everybody stops playing cards and **Monopoly**, turns toward the day-room door.*
 - A. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
 - B. in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
 - C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 2 *Ellis is a **Chronic** came in an Acute and got fouled up bad when they overloaded him in that filthy brain-murdering room that the black boys call the "Shock Shop."*
 - A. of something bad: lasting a long time or happening repeatedly -- especially in relation to illness
 - B. an architectural feature at the top of a roof, usually dome-shaped and opened by windows or columns
 - C. the degree to which a solution is simpler (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
- 3 *What possible **motive** ?*
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. the sacred writings of Islam
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 4 *I've known some people **inclined** to do that.*
 - A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. with a tendency
- 5 *That certainly is a pleasant **analogy**, my friend.*
 - A. a comparison of different things to point to a shared characteristic
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 6 *They're still grinning at each other, but their voices have dropped so low and **taut** I have to sweep over closer to them with my broom to hear.*
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 7 *...you too, Mr. McMurphy, for all your cowboy bluster and your sideshow **swagger**, you too, under that crusty surface, are probably just as soft and fuzzy and rabbit-souled as we are.*
 - A. to think carefully and make a judgment about
 - B. walk and behave in a highly confident manner
 - C. say something or make a sound with the voice
- 8 *The Shock Shop, Mr. McMurphy, is **jargon** for the EST machine, the Electro Shock Therapy.*
 - A. specialized vocabulary
 - B. mirror back (an image)
 - C. create dramatic change
- 9 *She's **impregnable** herself, and with the element of time working for her she eventually gets inside everyone.*
 - A. able to withstand attack
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. able to take on or adopt
- 10 *I don't know-I was always a pretty **shrewd** customer at twenty-one, but you birds may just be too tough for me.*
 - A. exact
 - B. awake
 - C. smart

- 11 *He's that way all through lunch, and at one o'clock he's the first one in his seat for the meeting, his eyes blue and ornery from his place in the corner.*
- A. easily annoyed and quick to complain and argue
 - B. a document granting permission to do something
 - C. the state or character of being bad or harmful
- 12 *And in the course of our reminiscing we happened to bring up the carnivals the school used to sponsor-marvelous, noisy, gala occasions.*
- A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. to talk or think fondly about past experiences
 - C. returning to an undesirable previous condition
- 13 *One by one the patients are sneaking looks at her to see how she's taking the way McMurphy is dominating the meeting,*
- A. speaking in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. pausing to change how something is done -- often while reducing the use of resources
 - C. controlling
- 14 *Just limbering up.*
- A. making possible
 - B. making flexible
 - C. moving downward
- 15 *She's sitting there so silent it makes him nervous and fidgety.*
- A. restless and finding it hard to sit still
 - B. perceive something that is hard to detect
 - C. characterized by having multiple purposes
- 16 *I realize you haven't had adequate time to arrive at a proper diagnosis of the patient, but you have had a chance at observing him in action.*
- A. identification of the illness
 - B. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
 - C. the act or process of stopping something from happening
- 17 *That's why he was up on Disturbed; whenever he wasn't lifeguarding he was liable to do something like that.*
- A. devices that convert light into electricity
 - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
 - C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 18 *It simply induces a seizure.*
- A. trades
 - B. causes
 - C. copies
- 19 *[Miss Ratched:] "No, Billy, I wasn't implying anything."*
- A. saying indirectly
 - B. going back to a previous state
 - C. acting in an official capacity
- 20 *I hope nothing too strenuous, because, man, am I stove up bad!*
- A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. difficult (requiring much effort)
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary in Context
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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	monopoly	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
2	A	chronic	Used 49 times in this book.
3	C	motive (as in: What is her motive?)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
4	C	inclined (as in: I'm inclined to)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	A	analogy	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	B	taut	Used 4 times in this book.
7	B	swagger	Used 6 times in this book.
8	A	jargon	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	impregnable (as in: the fort was impregnable)	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	shrewd	Used 4 times in this book.
11	A	ornery (as in: is ornery when she first wakes up)	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	C	dominate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	B	limber (as in: the gymnast stays limber)	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	fidget	Used 8 times in this book.
16	A	diagnose	Used 5 times in this book.
17	C	liable (as in: she is liable to)	Used 5 times in this book.
18	B	induce (as in: induce symptoms)	Used 4 times in this book.
19	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	B	strenuous	Used 2 times in this book.